



# A Sense of Place

FALL 2019

GRILLS PRESERVE



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## TRAILS MOBILE APP

Get interactive trail maps with GPS tracking, our calendar of events, property photos, passport program, live updates of trail conditions and recently spotted wildlife all at your fingertips! Visit your app store and search "Westerly Land Trust" or go to [WesterlyLandTrust.app](http://WesterlyLandTrust.app)



## MILESTONES



Whether canning the juicy peaches and sweet tomatoes we picked, or planting bulbs in expectation of their spring emergence or thinking about a cover crop to replenish the garden soil, fall is a time to take stock of our rewards, give thanks for our blessings, and prepare for the future. It's hard to do this and not think about legacy. What will we leave to those who come next? What changes can we make to ensure we pass this beautiful, crazy, wild world intact to the next generation?

It has been said: "*Legacy is planting seeds in a garden you never get to see.*"

and "*Legacy is planting trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit.*"

All over the world, people are paying more attention to our changing climate, and how it will inevitably challenge our vision of the status quo. People are making big and small changes in their lives and lifestyles to prepare for the future, so the legacy we leave to the next generation is one of abundance through our conservation actions today.

This year we lost three members of our Land Trust family, each of them remembered through gifts to the Westerly Land Trust. We are humbled and heartened by these acts of generosity and these votes of confidence that we will do the right thing, carrying on that legacy of conservation. We take this responsibility seriously, aspiring to make those who came before us proud as we instill in the next generation that same sense of continuity, responsibility, and hope. I am encouraged by the enthusiasm of the youth we've encountered through the Westerly Land Trust's 2019 spring and summer field trip programming. More than 450 children have connected with our land in Westerly this year alone. Many of our students initially approached the trips with fear (of the woods, bugs, snakes, bears, etc.) but in each case this trepidation was replaced with wonder at the taste of a wild blueberry or the perfectly placed tag on a horseshoe crab, or the often-overlooked world of salt marsh habitat. Deeply gratifying, each field trip provided us with a renewed sense of promise that as this generation grows up, conservation of the natural world will be an essential pillar of their lives, a guiding force for the actions of their futures. Their legacy.

  
Jennifer Fusco,  
*Executive Director*

## SETTING THE PACE FOR CONSERVATION AVONDALE 5K

Whether you're an avid runner or a beginner looking for your first 5K, register now for your spot on the roster! Join us on Sunday, November 10, 2019, at 10am at Avondale Farm Preserve to benefit the Westerly Land Trust. Run, jog or walk through one of the most beautiful neighborhoods in Westerly. These 3.1 miles are the flattest around, ensuring a great race time! Proceeds from this race go towards the Westerly Land Trust conservation efforts. For more information, please visit [www.westerlylandtrust.org](http://www.westerlylandtrust.org) or call 401-315-2610.



## VOLUNTEER CORNER: CHARLES JONES



Our featured star volunteer this fall is Charles Jones! Charles has been a dedicated Westerly Land Trust volunteer since 2016 when he retired and relocated to Westerly from Connecticut with his wife, Michelle, and their two French bulldogs.

Charles began volunteering with WLT each Tuesday, joining our dedicated volunteer group, "CCC" (aka Coffee and Clearing Club). Starting out, he just wielded a good old pair of loppers during trail maintenance

assignments, leading the way for the weedwhackers and other power equipment by removing anything that may impede their work. Quickly, Charles became familiar with the power tools and now employs weedwhackers and the occasional chainsaw too!

As his passion for land and trail maintenance grew, Charles learned how to operate our large tractors and regularly completes 'extra credit' tasks. Now, Charles is spending two to three days a week volunteering out on the land, going above and beyond for his (deeply grateful) friends at the Westerly Land Trust.

When we asked Charles why he volunteers with WLT, he said, "I strive to be a good humble servant. The Westerly Land Trust helps me with that by allowing me to maintain trails and preserves for public enjoyment. I'm hoping the trails help people to find inner peace, like they do for me."

Thank you, Charles, for your unbelievable work ethic and commitment to Westerly Land Trust's preserves!



## 2019 FARMERS MARKET REVIEW

The 2019 season was a turning point for the Westerly Land Trust's Farmers Market, as we saw it gain momentum with more vendors than ever and more eager shoppers picking out fresh corn, plump tomatoes and tasty blueberries. On Thursdays the Ice Rink on Main Street became an oasis of produce amidst the Downtown concrete, highlighting the importance of Westerly Land Trust's Urban Initiative by creating a central location to connect the community with locally grown food options. Through Farm Fresh RI, the Westerly Land Trust was able to offer SNAP and Fresh Bucks services to provide opportunities for all members of our community to enjoy fresh and healthy local fruits and veggies. And big thanks to the local farmers and vendors for their patience through all kinds of summertime weather as we continue to grow and promote this market.

If you are interested in becoming a vendor, please contact Meg Lee at [mlee@westerlylandtrust.org](mailto:mlee@westerlylandtrust.org) or call our office at 401-315-2610.



## HIKING IN THE FALL

Fall is in full swing! Apples are being picked, leaves are falling, bugs are gone, and the crisp mornings have arrived. It's time to hit the trails!

The Westerly Land Trust maintains more than 25 miles of hiking trails on 12 of our 31 properties. All of our preserves are beautiful in their own way, but we'd like to highlight a few that are a bit more magical in the fall.

**Riverwood Preserve**, a 148-acre property off Boy Scout Drive, has many unique features including fresh water wetlands, rocky ridges, and an old quarry. These features are even more spectacular with the colorful backdrop of autumn leaves. This preserve can be quite the bug habitat in the summer, but they are typically gone by the end of October. Riverwood Preserve is a must-see/hike this time of year.

With 2.5 miles of trails along the Pawcatuck River, the views at **Grills Preserve**, a 482-acre property off Bowling Lane in Bradford, are truly remarkable. Visit this preserve in the fall if you dabble in photography or simply want to enjoy riverside views. Grills Preserve is also home to 'Big Hill', one of the highest peaks in Westerly. The view over the tree tops is something you won't want to miss and with more than 6 miles of trails, you'll be busy for quite some time.

An important thing to remember about hiking in the fall is hunting season. While not all our preserves allow hunting, some do. There are many state managed areas in Westerly and surrounding towns that allow hunting as well. All hikers, bicyclists, horseback riders, etc. are required to wear 200 square inches of solid daylight fluorescent orange from the second Saturday in September to the last day of February and the from the third Saturday in April to the last day in May. If you are unsure if a property allows hunting, it is always best to err on the side of caution and wear orange anyway. And don't forget to "orange" your dogs.

We hope you enjoy this beautiful fall season outdoors on the land. As always, if you have any questions regarding our properties, please consult our Trails App, visit our website ([www.westerlylandtrust.org](http://www.westerlylandtrust.org)), call us at 401-315-2610 or send Meg Lee an email at [mlee@westerlylandtrust.org](mailto:mlee@westerlylandtrust.org) Happy Hiking!







## UPDATE ON THE ELEANOR F. AND EDWARD W. BARLOW NATURE PRESERVE

Even as we have settled comfortably into our temporary home at the Westerly Community Credit Union, we eagerly anticipate being in our permanent space at the Eleanor F. and Edward W. Barlow Nature Preserve, located at 449 Westerly-Bradford Road. The property consists of approximately 80 acres of diverse habitat, including agricultural land, upland forest, and extensive freshwater wetlands adjacent to State-owned Newton Marsh.

Received from the estate of the Barlows in June 2018, the property was once a family farm, and we immediately saw its potential as a vibrant agricultural space. In early 2019 we engaged with three young farmers to begin bringing the property back into agricultural production. With the proximity to a critical freshwater wetland habitat, the care for the soil and the issues of runoff are paramount. The farmers have all committed to environmentally sound farming measures and are implementing best practices in soil management as part of their farming agreements.

We have partnered with USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) on plans for an irrigation system and the installation of a new deep well to accommodate vegetable crop production. We are also seeking funding to include fencing and updates to the farm outbuildings, which will further modernize and functionalize the farm.

In addition to the working farm, the property has a two-story house which will become our future home, complete with meeting and programming spaces, land trust offices, a kitchen to accommodate small groups, a reception area, and an outdoor welcome kiosk. As the Westerly Land

Trust's permanent headquarters, we envision a steady stream of visitors to the property, hiking the trails, visiting the farm stand run by the farmers, and immersing themselves in agricultural and environmental programming. Without a doubt, Barlow will become a true ambassador landscape for the Westerly Land Trust.

Having our operations on site also allows us to build on our highly successful K-8 education program with the new elements of agriculture and farming. Since the inception of our pilot education program in 2016, more than 2,000 students have benefited from environmental and conservation-based education provided by the Westerly Land Trust. WLT will provide programs centered around the importance of farming, agriculture and local sustainability at the Barlow property. In effect, Barlow Nature Preserve will be the text book and the classroom for these programs.

WLT has committed funds to begin the work, and we are currently fundraising with many of our partners to help us complete the project. The renovations plan includes green building initiatives in line with our

conservation mission which will also help reduce operating costs of the building year over year. A substantial portion of labor is being donated from our supportive members, and we have secured several in-kind donations of materials from local businesses who believe in the mission of the Westerly Land Trust. Without these incredible partnerships, the cost of this project would be exponentially higher.

If you would like to support this project and be a part of WLT's future, please contact Jennifer Fusco at [jfusco@westerlylandtrust.org](mailto:jfusco@westerlylandtrust.org).



*Above: Current two-story house on the property.  
Center: Renovation in progress looking out the back.  
Right: Proposed exterior renovation.*







## 9TH ANNUAL FARM DINNER

The Westerly Land Trust's 9th Annual Farm Dinner welcomed more than 200 guests on September 7th at St. Clare Church. While we would have loved to have dined al fresco as intended at Winnapaug Farm Preserve, we made the hard decision to move the dinner indoors with Hurricane Dorian looming off the coast and reports of mosquitos carrying EEE in the area. This type of flexibility was apropos of an event celebrating the food of farms, as it illuminated the unpredictability of nature that farmers deal with daily.

Dining inside kept the focus on the people who grow our food and care for the soil and the land. Without their passion, we would not have a farm dinner, a farmers market, or healthy, locally grown foods to feed our families. Farmers are the very best land conservationists—conserving soil, water, wildlife, open space, and scenery. Many farmers attended the dinner and shared stories of their ventures. John Strafach, the owner and farmer of EverBreeze Farm who supplied grass-fed beef for the dinner, spoke about his cattle's strict diet, explaining that he utilizes Westerly Land Trust property to grow hay to sustain his herd over the winter.

The Farm Dinner is WLT's most important annual fundraiser, providing vital support to sustain our land trust activities throughout the year. Many thanks to the guests for their rain-or-shine support; to the volunteers who worked hard on every aspect of this event; to the Farm Dinner Committee who scrambled to change venues with guests' safety and comfort in mind; to the chefs whose creativity never ceases to please the palate; and to the farmers and producers without whom the world would go hungry. Didn't get a ticket this year? Join us next year for our 10th anniversary of the Farm Dinner—sure to be a splashy event!



### THE CHEFS

Theresa and Scott Chamberlain  
*Teddy's Griddle*

David Miguel (Ret.) & Sean Beplat  
*Ella T. Grasso Tech Culinary Department*

Mark Lacz  
*Casa Della Luce & Vetrano's*

Andrew Nathan  
*The Sea Goose & The Cooked Goose*

Allyson Mansfield  
*Vesta Bakery*

### PRODUCERS

Avondale Farm  
Broadview Florist  
Carpenter's Farm Stand  
Dick's World of Wines  
Echo Rock Flowers  
EverBreeze Farm  
Grey Sail Brewing Company  
Jonathan Edwards Winery  
Little River Farm  
Narrow Lane Orchard  
Pleasant Acres Nursery & Florist  
Seacoast Mushrooms  
Stonyledge Farm  
Watch Hill Oysters  
Wehpittituck Farm  
West Beach Farm

# THANK YOU

## 2019 CORPORATE SPONSORS

**EVERGREEN - \$2,500**



**EAGLE - \$1,500**



**HERON - \$1,000**

Anchor Insulation  
Brookside Electric  
Cherenzia & Associates  
Dick's World of Wines  
Jonathan Edwards Winery  
Lathrop Insurance  
Louis Panciera, Inc.  
Miceli's Furniture  
Valenti Family of Dealerships  
Washington Trust Company

**BLUEBIRD - \$500**

The Andrea Seaside Restaurant and Beach Bar  
Dunns Corners Market  
EZ Waste Systems  
First Financial Advisory Services  
Ginger's Service Station  
The Hotel Maria  
Premier Physical Therapy  
Printing Plus  
RE/MAX South County  
Schilke Realty  
Stela Parties and Events



## REMEMBERING: STANTON TERRANOVA



The Westerly Land Trust is fortunate to have many loyal supporters, but sadly, in June 2019, we said goodbye to one of them, Stanton J. Terranova, Sr. His support, both during his life and into the future through his thoughtful bequest to WLT, reveals much more about this man.

Stanton was born in Westerly in 1933, attended Westerly Schools, grew his family and businesses in this town and never wavered

from the path of hard work. His life-long friends held on to their childhood nicknames and used a handshake not only as a friendly greeting, but to confirm a promise or commitment. Stanton lived his life by these values and instilled them in his family, friends and anyone he met.

A businessman from the start, Stanton peddled milk at age 9. He kept chickens and sold their eggs, had a Providence Journal newspaper route and set bowling pins at Moore Hall, all by the end of 7th grade. Stanton decided he wanted to be a scalloper and built a capable flat bottom boat for his 8th grade shop project. He caddied at Winnapaug Golf Course to raise \$78.85 to buy a 3 horse-power Sky King motor from Montgomery Ward, then joined the Westerly Yacht Club for \$25

to dock and house his boat. Stanton got an \$82 loan from his father for scalloping gear, which he paid back in the first year of this operation. Through his tenacity and drive, Stanton created and operated his first successful business before finishing junior high school.

In the 1960s and 70s, these self-developed skills proved invaluable as Stanton set his sights on bringing Misquamicut back into a positive light as a place for families to vacation. He worked passionately day and night to restore, modernize and expand the Pleasant View House, an inn on Atlantic Avenue. Stanton did such a great job of promoting Westerly as a wonderful place to visit that visitors started becoming residents. This prompted the inception of his real estate business, Stanton Realty, so he could accommodate Westerly's residents in addition to the visitors of the Pleasant View House.

Stanton embraced the WLT ideals of enhancing Westerly's sense of place. Even in his real estate career, a field that sometimes emphasizes growth in all directions, he understood that all land was not meant to be developed, and that preserving land meant preserving the quality of life for Westerly's residents and visitors. To Stanton, open land provided natural and visual benefits which must be protected. Stanton was a forward-thinking businessman who believed that Westerly would be a much different place without these conserved lands.

These beliefs and values led Stanton to become ingrained in the WLT mission. The Westerly Land Trust is grateful for Stanton's support in life, and for having the generous forethought to consider us, and therefore Westerly, in his estate plans. We celebrate his life well lived and his legacy that will live on.



*Photo Credit: Rebecca Woodward*

## REMEMBERING: PATTI PANCIERA



When people speak of Patti Panciera, it is generally regarding her passionate work as an English teacher and more recently as a School Committee member. After her passing, her family asked that donations be made in her memory to the Westerly Land Trust. What many may not know is that Patti was also passionate about conservation of land and especially the beaches in Westerly. She was concerned about the

continued development and how that would impact the town she loved so dearly. In addition to land conservation, Patti loved arts and culture. Again, she supported the Land Trust for their work in preservation and restoration of iconic buildings in Westerly, like the United Theatre Project. Both of her children, Scott Farley and Kristen Sweeney, have moved back to the area and plan to become very active in supporting the Westerly Land Trust in a variety of ways. We are humbled and grateful by the outpouring of gifts from those who knew and loved Patti.





# REMEMBERING: MICHAEL FEDERICO



When Michael Federico was elected to the Westerly Town Council in 1978, he made it his mission to serve in the name of the people. It wasn't just because he was a registered Independent or that, at 22, he had made history as the town's youngest councilman. To him, it meant everything to give what he could back to the town that made him who he was.

Born June 15, 1956 to Irma (Olean) and Rudy Federico, Michael was as Westerly as they

come. He and his eight younger siblings grew up in the local school system, spending summers at the Town Beach and playing sports in the nearby parks and fields. At 9 years old, he got his first job working as a newspaper delivery boy for The Westerly Sun, which later inspired him to become publisher of his own seasonal publication, On the Beach. At 26, he opened Fed's Concession Stand and Beach Arcade in Misquamicut (once located between The Windjammer and The Wreck), then added to his businesses by opening Beach Bakery in Misquamicut and The Latest Scoop, an ice cream store on Main Street next to

Midway Pizza. At 28, he opened Federico Enterprises, where he owned the RI, Eastern CT and Southern MA distributorship of Snapple beverages and Ramlosa fine waters.

In 1986, Michael married Karen West, also a Westerly native, and relocated to the Greater Hartford area. During their 33-year marriage, they raised two daughters - Hillary and Courtney and, together, ran their own investment and tax preparation business, Hillcourt Financial. After purchasing and renovating a house in Westerly two years ago, Michael and Karen recently moved back to Rhode Island, when he passed away in May 2019, just short of his 63rd birthday.

Like the title of this newsletter, A Sense of Place, suggests, home is a feeling, not necessarily a place; however, Michael found both in the town of Westerly. As a member of The Westerly Land Trust, he cherished the public lands and beaches that were so essential to his upbringing and which helped chart the course of his pursuits: biking, bodysurfing, walking and sailing, to name a few. Perhaps more importantly to Michael though, was the Land Trust's ability to preserve these spaces for public enjoyment regardless of race, gender or affluence. Because to Michael, everyone should be afforded the opportunity to enjoy what the natural world has to offer. The Westerly Land Trust is honored to have held a place in Michael's heart and thankful for the generosity of those who cherished him.

## ORCHARD SOCIETY - YOUR CONSERVATION LEGACY

"The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it and to foster its renewal is our only hope." ~ Wendell Berry

By including the Westerly Land Trust in your estate plan and becoming a member of the Orchard Society, you demonstrate a deep commitment to the future of the Westerly Land Trust. Orchard Society funds support the long-term stewardship of our lands, ensuring future generations will be able to enjoy the things which make Westerly special.

If you would like to be counted within the Orchard Society and leave a conservation legacy, please contact Jennifer Fusco at [jfusco@westerlylandtrust.org](mailto:jfusco@westerlylandtrust.org) or (401) 315-2610.

## ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER

**Friday December 6th, 2019**

**5:30 pm - 7:00 pm**

**Industrial Trust, 10 High Street, Westerly**

We welcome all WLT members to join us as we recap our year and look to the great things ahead! Light refreshments will be served and we will enjoy a brief concert by the Westminster String Ensemble.

## IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

The IRA Charitable Rollover allows taxpayers age 70½ or older to transfer up to \$100,000 annually from their IRA accounts directly to charity without first having to recognize the distribution as income. Since no tax is incurred on the withdrawal, gifts do not qualify for an income tax charitable deduction, but are eligible to be counted toward an individual's minimum required distribution.

Please consider the Westerly Land Trust in your planning if you qualify for this type of donation. It may be beneficial to you from a tax perspective (speak with your tax advisor for details) and will help WLT continue its mission to conserve land for future generations. For more information, please contact Jennifer Fusco at [jfusco@westerlylandtrust.org](mailto:jfusco@westerlylandtrust.org).





## THE WESTERLY LAND TRUST

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Harvest Hike, Wahaneeta Preserve

Sunday, October 27, 3pm

Come on an autumnal adventure surrounded by scenic foliage and good company. We'll share donuts, cider, and the great outdoors! A free event for Land Trust members and kids 10 and under. Non-members are \$5. RSVP is required. Please email [mlee@westerlylandtrust.org](mailto:mlee@westerlylandtrust.org) to register.

### Halloween Themed Hike, Grills Preserve

Thursday, October 31, 10am

When our Thursday guided trail-walk series falls on Halloween, you can expect a little spookiness in the woods. Dress festively and join us at Grills Preserve prepared to hear some ghost stories. This event is free to all.

### Setting the Pace for Conservation 5K, Avondale Farm Preserve

Sunday, November 10, 10am

Each fall, the Westerly Land Trust hosts a 5K race around beautiful Avondale Farm Preserve to benefit our conservation work. This race is one of the flattest courses in Rhode Island, making this a great opportunity to run/walk your best time! Register online now at [westerlylandtrust.org](http://westerlylandtrust.org)

### Holiday Stroll, Industrial Trust Building

Wednesday, December 4, 5pm-9pm

During the hustle and bustle of the 23rd Annual Holiday Stroll & Luminaria, pop into the Industrial Trust Building for WLT's craft and bake sale. Local vendors will be selling yummy treats and handmade art and goods, perfect for holiday gifts.

### Annual Meeting, Industrial Trust Building

Friday, December 6, 5:30pm

Join us for the Westerly Land Trust's annual meeting as we look back at all the great accomplishments of 2019 and look forward to what is to come in 2020. Light refreshments will be served and we will enjoy a brief concert by the Westminster String Ensemble.

### Wine & Wreaths, Industrial Trust Building

Wednesday, December 11, 5pm

Just in time for the holidays, gather together with friends, sip wine and snack on hors d'oeuvres while you craft your very own beautiful wreath with locally sourced greenery. \$25 for members, \$40 for non-members. Space is limited. To RSVP, contact Meg Lee at [mlee@westerlylandtrust.org](mailto:mlee@westerlylandtrust.org)

### Photo Contest, Coming Soon!

We want to see the Westerly Land Trust properties through your eyes and your lens. In the coming months we will be announcing details of a photo contest. We will be looking for photos from all four seasons, so start now and capture the beauty of New England fall. Photographs will be used in WLT publications, website, newsletters and the 2021 Westerly Land Trust calendar.