



# A Sense of Place

SPRING 2020



WINNAPPAUG FARM PRESERVE

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## MILESTONES: A NEW NORMAL

As I write this from my home office, our WLT community is on my mind, and I'm hoping that everyone is staying safe and finding ways to cope. We at the Westerly Land Trust have been utilizing technology to try our best to maintain a normal work week. But the reality is there is no such thing as Normal. Even last week's Normal has changed this week, and we find we must be even more flexible, understanding, and patient than many of us were ever created to be. *Stop seeing our friends and family? Cut our own hair? Make our own masks?* This is not a Normal I want to get used to, but we must.

When things start to go haywire for me, time outdoors always helps, and clearly that is the case for many. We have seen unprecedented use of our preserves over the past several weeks. With playgrounds, state parks, and schools closed, people are searching for a safe place to breathe deeply, stretch legs, and feel normal again. We are proud to know that the Westerly Land Trust's properties are creating solace for many in our community. The number of downloads and use of our Trails App has more than tripled between mid-March and early April. We simply ask that people adhere to social distancing guidelines and leave nothing behind, so we can keep the trails open and pristine for the next person. We have received many calls and emails from grateful people, thanking us for keeping our lands open to the public and providing places of respite from these wild times. Knowing that in some small way we are contributing to the comfort of others has been a major boost to our spirits.

Spring reminds us that life begins anew and Nature forges on. Birds nesting, trees budding, bees at work—these are inspiring and humbling days. In the end, Nature may be just what will heal us. We look forward to the time we can gather together, hug and kiss hello to our family and friends, and celebrate the little things again.

Until then, we are wishing all of you good health and safe passage through these times.

  
Jennifer Fusco,  
*Executive Director*

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

In January, Westerly Land Trust welcomed two new Board members, Polly Chorlton and Jeff Walker. While new to their Board roles, both are veteran volunteers and supporters of the Westerly Land Trust.

### POLLY CHORLTON

A native of Mystic, CT, Polly works at the Ocean Community YMCA as a fitness instructor and personal trainer, previously serving as the Health and Wellness Director for close to 20 years. Through the YMCA, Polly spent many years as a race director for the Roger Schonning 5K Road Race, Tarzan Brown Road Race and both the Mystic River Valley Triathlon and the OCY Triathlon. She also worked with a variety of committees and boards within the YMCA. Polly is a member of the Westerly Track and Athletic Club and is on the Board of Directors, most recently serving as Secretary.

Polly is an active volunteer at WLT's Farm Dinner and serves on the committee for the Annual *Setting the Pace for Conservation* 5K road race and has been an active and cheerful volunteer whenever we've asked for her help. Polly resides in Westerly with her husband, Stephen Schonning.



### JEFF WALKER

Jeff Walker, a South County native, moved to Westerly in 2002 with his wife, Jana, and their two sons, Mark and Matthew. Jeff works as a Vice President and Manager of Business Support in Washington Trust's Wealth Management Division.

Jeff's true passion lies in outdoor activities, which first attracted him to the Westerly Land Trust. An avid runner, Jeff has completed twenty marathons, a 50K trail race and wilderness races in Iceland and Alaska. He serves as Vice President of the Westerly Track & Athletic Club. In addition to running, Jeff enjoys hiking, biking, swimming, kayaking, triathlons, skiing, camping and just generally being outside.

Jeff's volunteerism with the Westerly Land Trust includes working with the Coffee & Clearing Club, "CCC", as well as serving on the annual *Setting the Pace for Conservation* 5K road race committee and WLT's Finance Committee.





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

Despite the fact that we are separated, things continue to move forward at the Barlow Nature Preserve. The building which will be our Land Trust home continues to evolve, and the workers have staggered their jobs to adhere to social distancing guidelines while maintaining the timeline. We are utilizing several green building initiatives in line with our conservation mission, including installing solar panels on our roof to facilitate electricity for the house and farm. These practices not only maintain our mission to care for the land, but also help reduce operating costs of the building year over year. We are excited to move into the final phase of the renovation project and see the vision for Barlow take shape.

Outside on the Barlow farm, our three farmers have been hard at work preparing for their 2020 growing seasons. Echo Rock Flowers, Vita Nova Compost and Frontier Farm will all have viable crops this season thanks to these flexible and entrepreneurial farmers. WLT contracted with Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to install a new well on the farm property which will provide the water needed to accommodate vegetable and flower crop production. This amazing feat was accomplished the first week of April.



In addition, we are proud to introduce you to Barlow's first tenants—our bees! We are so excited to see them get “beazy” and their presence will not only help pollinate the crops but will hopefully contribute to future stores of WLT's own Barlow honey. Our mouths are watering already. See more on bees to the right.



Especially during this difficult time, we take comfort in seeing the trees in bloom, the bees at work, and life emerging from the quiet of winter. Life on the farm continues, and we are so thrilled to have this special property as part of our landscape in Westerly. The Barlow project would not have been possible without the support and dedication of many partners. 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. We remain truly grateful for the opportunity to preserve this special place. When the time is right, we will welcome visitors to the property to celebrate this new beginning.

## BEES AT BARLOW

Each species of bee plays a unique role in our ecosystem, but collectively they serve as a critical pollinator necessary for both human and wildlife existence. Unfortunately, bees face an uncertain future due to the overuse of pesticides. This spring, the Westerly Land Trust will endeavor to do our part in protecting bees as we welcome four hives to the Barlow Nature Preserve.

Three conventional hives were donated by John Maxon and established by Sheila and Tom Beattie, and a Flow Hive was donated by Olga Goff. Because bees are responsible for over 60% of the produce we see in our grocery stores, their presence right next to the newly established Barlow farms will have a direct impact on local produce for Westerly's residents. In preparation for our new tenants, our staff is busily learning the ways of the bees to ensure that the colonies succeed in their new location.

These bees will also serve as a key learning opportunity for students who visit the Preserve. The Westerly Land Trust's field trip programs are growing each year, and the Barlow Nature Preserve is the perfect place for experiential agricultural learning. Here, from a safe distance, students will learn about the role bees play in the cycle of farming, from bee pollination, to planting and growing produce and flowers, and finally to composting organic materials.

We are excited about the privilege and responsibility of hosting bees on our land and look forward to the time when we can share their bounty with our members and guests.



*Italian Honeybee*  
*A. m. ligustica*

# THANKS to our 2019 SUPPORTERS

## FOUNDATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS

### \$10,000 AND ABOVE PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

Anonymous (2)  
The Bafflin Foundation  
Sheilia and Tom Beattie  
The Champlin Foundation  
Fidelity Charitable Trust  
Linda Griffin  
The Forrest C. and Francis H.  
Lattner Foundation  
General William Mayer Foundation  
The New York Community Trust  
Deborah and Chuck Royce  
Southern RI Conservation District  
Lise Strickler and Mark Gallogly  
Stanton Terranova, Sr.+

### \$5,000 TO \$9,999 PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

Ashaway Charitable Trust  
Jennifer and Alan Brinton  
Emma Clyde Hodge  
Memorial Fund/ Anne Earle  
Megan Flanigan  
Joan and Gerry Gorman  
Halvorson Family Fund/ Mike Halvorson  
Russell and Carey Jeffrey Family Foundation  
The Lattner Family Foundation  
Karin McCormick  
Marguerite and Tom Moore  
Schwab Charitable Fund

### \$2,500 TO \$4,999 PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

Norma Terris and Albert D.  
Firestone Foundation  
Jennifer and Jay Fusco  
Olga and Lyman Goff  
Pam Heller  
Ardis and Dick Holliday  
Hollingsworth Family Foundation/  
Linherr and Dana Hollingsworth  
Barbara and Allen Leadbetter  
Kathy and Bill McKendree  
Joyce and Richard Panciera  
Pfizer Foundation

### \$1,000 TO \$2,499 PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

Carol Amedeo  
Donna Anderson  
Appleby Charitable Lead Trust/  
Stephanie Raia and Peter Appleby  
Lisa Barnes

*I was thrilled with the quality of the new bridges and how well-maintained the trails were. Thanks so much for providing these areas of respite. It is a true luxury to be able to walk to these areas and not have to drive. We live in a great town and the Westerly Land Trust makes it so much better.*

*~ Ellen Madison*

Debra Brendel and Joe Miceli  
Donna and Frank Celico  
Julie and John Coduri  
Carter and Bruce Conway  
Carol and Les Crandall  
KC Crandall and Kate Corbett  
Jim Crowley  
Jeanne and Harvey DeMovick  
Alexandra and Paul Dewey  
Karen and Karnig Durgarian  
Thomas Eglin  
Elms Retirement Residence  
Marsha and Eric Fiske  
The Fuller Family Charitable Trust/  
Deborah and John Fuller  
Pamela and John Gentile  
Debra and John Hanley  
Gale and Terry Hunt  
Deborah and Peter Lamm  
Cathy and John Lathrop  
Florence and Matthew Lewis  
Anne and Tom Liguori  
Margah and Tom Lips  
Louis Foundation/ Katherine  
Metcalf and Langdon Wheeler  
Camilla and Hunter Marvel  
Louise Mauran  
Susie and Josh Metz  
Alexandra Moore and Carter Holliday  
Dorothea Moore  
Patricia and Peter Moore  
Susan and Thomas O'Connor, Jr.  
Daisy and Hans Oppelt  
Ann and Hollis Petersen  
Phillips 66  
Ellen and Fred Prella  
Ba and David Prigmore  
David Rathbun  
Sharon and Steve Rowley  
Maggie and Steve Ruzzo  
Jill and Nick Scola  
Cynthia and Thomas Sculco  
Deborah and Samuel Shaw  
Daisy and Jamie Smythe  
Karla and Brad Stuebing  
Andie and Ben Ten Have  
Louise Thorson and Richard  
Gregory III  
Kate and John Townsend

Vanguard Charitable Endowment  
Tara Whelan  
Marilyn and Bill White  
Christi and Nicholas Wood  
Rebecca Woodward and Adam Kaufman

### \$500 TO \$999

Bobbie and Fred Allardyce  
Karin and Jim Aukerman  
Pam Barnes  
Jodie and John Clark  
The Robert Cummings Family Foundation/  
Alexandra Cummings and  
Howard Haronian  
Linda and Matthew Cunningham  
Heather and Bob Davis  
Cynthia and Charles Doocy  
Sarah and John Duffy  
Suzanne and David Francis  
Eileen Goldgeier  
Gray Goose Cookery  
Ann Gray and James Royle  
Heidi and Paul Grillo  
Mary and Michael Hagen  
Terry Hamann and Alan Perlstein  
Calynn Jenkins  
Karen and Mel Jolly  
Eti Katoni and Rick Thompson  
Nancy and Bob Kiel  
Eileen Kim  
Jean and Brad Kopp  
Sue and Bill Lester  
Peter Lewiss  
Dion Luzzi  
Gail Mallard  
Liza Moore and Arnie MacDonald  
Sue and Pete Ogle  
Mary and James Penrose  
Lynne Randall and Tom Malone  
Susan and Gene Renz  
Gayle and Howard Rothman  
United Way Of Rhode Island  
Lisa and Bob Vuono  
Cassidy Whipple



*Arlene Hawkins, Sylvia Blanda, and Ed Conklin at the 2019 Farm Dinner*



# THANKS to our 2019 SUPPORTERS

*"I believe in the importance of green space to the soul. The Westerly Land Trust was one of the first organizations I donated to in Westerly and I will continue to support them in the future. I consider it more than a fair exchange – a little green for a LOT of green – and birds and wildlife and joy."*

*~ Barbara Seith*

## **\$250 TO \$499**

Lynn Azzinaro  
Joan and Glen Berwick  
Sylvia Blanda and Walter Young  
Bridget Bridgman  
Diane Brink  
Sally and Peter Burgess  
Susan Capalbo  
Jeanne and Tony Cardwell  
Ernest Chorneye  
Deni Cox Catullo  
Joyce Duerr  
Susan Dumouchel  
Deb and Len Edwards

Laura Kline and Michael Lazar  
Mary LaPere  
Kitt and James Lee  
Lisa Lichtenberger  
Bob Liguori  
Ellen Madison  
Mary Jane and Robin Marvel  
Theodore Marzilli  
Jerry and Ed Miguel  
Carol and Chuck Miller  
Elizabeth and Clement Moore II  
Morgan Stanley  
Emily and Marshall Mugge  
Julee Oh and John Thero



*2019 Setting the Pace for Conservation 5K Race Leaders*

Ann and Jon Ericson  
Rich Fil  
Jean Fiore  
FM Global Foundation  
Mojie Friel and Nick Stahl  
Martha and Don Geehan  
Julie and Antonio Gooding  
Margaret and David Gordon  
Arlene Hawkins  
Susan Heller  
Jeffery Hires  
Phyllis and Bill Horne  
Jane and Bob Hottensen  
Nancy and Chris Houlihan  
Mary Hyde and Bob Katz  
Eleanor and Stockton Illoway  
Whitney and Frederic Jaccarino  
Jan Chamberlain  
Meg and Jonathan Kelly

Dianne and Larry Orlando  
Mabel and John Payne  
Jane Perry and Joe Paliotta  
Christian Peterson  
Arlene and Peter Piacquadio  
Lorraine and Bill Quirk  
Kirk Reynolds and Richard Green  
Pamela Rice  
Bill Richardson  
Leslie and Curtis Roach  
Leslie Ryan and Laurel Ennis  
Barbara Seith  
Joyce Stahl  
Kristen and John Sweeney  
Nancy Taylor  
Carolyn and Edward White  
Elizabeth and Harold White  
Debbie and Bruce Yarde

## **2019 CORPORATE SPONSORS**

### **EVERGREEN - \$2,500**

Grey Sail Brewing Company  
Starkweather & Shepley Insurance, Inc.  
Westerly Community Credit Union

### **EAGLE - \$1,500**

Cornerstone Self Storage, Inc.  
Olga B. Goff Real Estate  
Rawson Materials  
Sage Environmental  
Schonning Insurance Agency  
Stanton Realty  
The Wine Store

### **HERON - \$1,000**

Anchor Insulation  
Brookside Electric  
Cherenzia & Associates  
Dick's World of Wines  
Jonathan Edwards Winery  
Lathrop Insurance Agency  
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, Inc.  
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

### **BUSINESS MEMBERS - \$250 TO \$499**

Avondale Boat Yard  
Avondale Homeowners Association  
Bouvier Insurance  
Broadview Garden Center and Florist  
Frank Hall Boat Yard  
Kaiser Tree Preservation Co.  
ServiceMaster of South County  
South County Tourism Council, Inc.

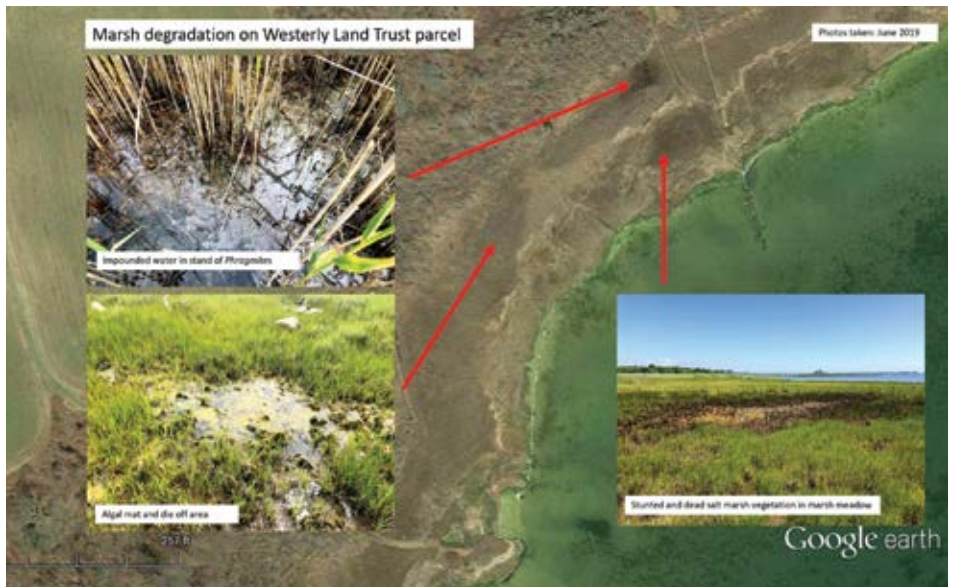
# SALT MARSH RESTORATION PROJECT

This spring, RIDEM's Mosquito Abatement Coordinator and Save The Bay, with the help of The Westerly Land Trust and Audubon Society of Rhode Island, are conducting a salt marsh restoration project on the northwestern section of Winnapaug Pond. Both the Westerly Land Trust and Audubon Society of RI own properties that abut this affected section of the pond.

Winnapaug salt marsh is exhibiting signs of degradation including the presence of impounded standing water on the marsh surface which has stunted vegetation and in some cases caused it to die. These shallow areas of water do not support fish or other wildlife, but instead create mosquito breeding habitats. To restore this area, Save the Bay excavated runnels, or narrow channels, to allow the water to naturally return to the salt pond. The excavated peat from the runnels was placed on the marsh surface to benefit marsh plant growth. The peat has also been used to fill in depressions that are creating the mosquito-breeding habitat.

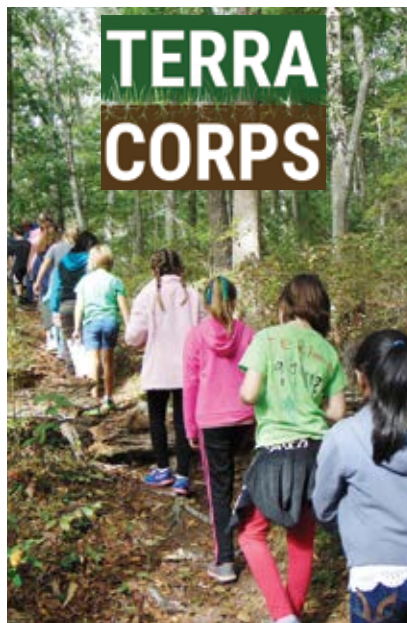
These runnels will be maintained by hand for at least two growing seasons to ensure that they provide the necessary drainage. Save the Bay in coordination with the Westerly Land Trust and the Audubon Society of RI will establish photo stations to assess the change in vegetation coverage before and after the marsh adaptation activities.

These types of projects have proven successful in many areas along the coast. RIDEM's Mosquito Abatement Coordinator and Save The Bay conducted similar salt marsh adaptation projects in 2013 and 2016 on properties owned by the Town of Westerly, the Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation, and abutting private property. Monitoring results of these projects has shown greater vegetation coverage and less standing water on the marsh surface since the runnels were excavated. WLT is pleased to participate in this restoration project.



# TERRACORPS

The Westerly Land Trust is looking forward to welcoming a TerraCorps Member this summer, adding another full-time person to our team for an eleven-month timeframe. A faction of the AmeriCorps organization, TerraCorps thrives on its mission: "to prepare and mobilize emerging leaders to help communities gain access to and conserve land for people and nature." Previously, TerraCorps only served Massachusetts; but now the Westerly Land Trust is queued to become one of its first Rhode Island partners. WLT's TerraCorps Member will be focusing on Community Engagement and Environmental Education. Our environmental education programming continues to grow. Each year we receive inquiries from more schools and organizations interested in participating in what



we have to offer. In order to accommodate all these requests, we've had to expand our range of programming. From field trips on our preserves, hosting summer programming, developing 'Trail Blazer' after school programs, partnering with NESS (New England Science & Sailing), participating in science fairs, and visiting schools to bring programming to the classroom, we are at capacity. The addition of this TerraCorps Member will allow us to continue to expand our education programming and develop new curriculum to meet the new science standards enlisted by RI schools. We will also have added capacity to our community programming which includes the Community Garden, Farmers Market, monthly hikes, and other WLT sponsored events and activities.

We are very thankful to both the General William Mayer Foundation and the TerraCorps initiative for making this new position at WLT possible.



# VOLUNTEER CORNER: STEVE WEISS

Steve Weiss has been hiking his whole life, and when he moved to Westerly seven years ago, he found himself exploring the Westerly Land Trust trails. So in 2018, when he stumbled across an article in the paper announcing the WLT Annual Meeting, he was inspired to attend. Right then and there, he joined CCC. A year or so later, it was no surprise that Steve was one of the first to accomplish the Westerly Land Trust Trails App Passport Program and earn his tshirt!



Steve on Mount Monadnock

Originally from Long Island, Steve left New York at age 18 to pursue a B.S. in Wildlife Biology at Colorado State University. Ten years later he earned a Masters in Technical Journalism from the University of Wyoming. He landed a career working for the Forest Service in Colorado, Wyoming and California. Then Steve moved to southeastern Washington to work as an environmental engineer, biologist and "jack of all trades" on the Superfund Cleanup of the many nuclear reactors on the Hanford Site. The Hanford Site is half the size of Rhode Island and straddles about 50 miles of the Columbia River.

Steve likes to give back to the community, especially through organizations that are very active. "I was amazed at how much the Westerly Land Trust accomplishes: the many properties managed, the miles of trails built and maintained, and the many events held for the members and community," Steve said. "What makes it even easier to help is all the dedicated, friendly, and enthusiastic volunteers and office staff (who also get out of the office and to do the 'dirty/fun work') I get to meet and work with." Steve also volunteers at the Mystic Aquarium, where he educates visitors about the animals, conservation, and general biology.

Thank you, Steve, for bringing a lifetime of environmental skills and experiences to the Westerly Land Trust.

## TRAILS 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.



## PASSPORT PROGRAM

The Westerly Land Trust Trails App's Passport Program is a fun and competitive way to track your hikes on our preserves. Similar to a scavenger hunt, each WLT property with hiking trails has three QR codes hidden in plain sight. As you find these QR codes, simply open the App, click 'Passport Program', choose your preserve, and your camera will open within the app to scan the code. Collect all the QR codes and you will win an exclusive Passport Program t-shirt, which comes with bragging rights, of course. Spring is the perfect time to get outdoors and complete the program!



Anita Kaiser and Lori White

# THANK YOU 2020 CORPORATE SPONSORS

**EVERGREEN - \$2,500**



**STARKWEATHER & SHEPLEY**  
INSURANCE BROKERAGE, INC.

**Westerly Community**  
Credit Union

**EAGLE - \$1,500**



**CHERENZIA**  
& ASSOCIATES, LTD



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SELF STORAGE



**SAGE**  
ENVIRONMENTAL

Insurance Agency  
**SCHONNING**

*The* WineStore

**HERON - \$1,000**

Anchor Insulation

Brookside Electric

Dick's World of Wines

Jonathan Edwards Winery

Ginger's Service Station

Louis Panciera, Inc.

Miceli's Furniture

North American Property Solutions

Valenti Family of Dealerships

**BLUEBIRD- \$500**

The Andrea Seaside Restaurant and

Beach Bar

Cahill and Co.

Dunns Corners Market

EZ Waste Systems

First Financial Advisory Services

The Hotel Maria

JRV Woodworks

Premier Physical Therapy

Printing Plus

RE/MAX South County

Schilke Realty

Stanton Realty

Stela Parties and Events





## THE WESTERLY LAND TRUST

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

*We look forward to a time when we can gather together again. We are optimistically planning events for the remainder of 2020, but as these events approach, we will adhere to guidelines set by the State of Rhode Island. Please check our website for up-to-date event information at [www.westerlylandtrust.org](http://www.westerlylandtrust.org). Stay safe and healthy.*

**Westerly Land Trust's Farmers Market**  
Thursdays beginning June 11, 10am-1pm

Shop for locally grown produce and hand-crafted goods every Thursday from June 11th through September 17th at 85 Main Street in Westerly.

**Setting the Pace for Conservation 5K, Avondale Farm Preserve**  
Thursday, July 16, 6pm

Historically held in the Fall, this year the Westerly Land Trust's 5K race around beautiful Avondale Farm Preserve will be held on a summer evening, followed by festivities including food and music. This race is one of the flattest courses in Rhode Island, making this a great opportunity to run/walk your best time. But best of all, the proceeds benefit the conservation work of the Westerly Land Trust.

**10th Annual Farm Dinner at Winnapaug Farm Preserve**  
Saturday, August 29

Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Westerly Land Trust Farm Dinner. Please note that this year, the Farm Dinner will be held prior to Labor Day. Details and ticket information will be available in July.

## PHOTO CONTEST

This year, the Westerly Land Trust is seeking photos taken on our beautiful properties for a chance to be featured on our website, app, newsletter and more! In addition, all submitted photos will be entered into our calendar contest. The top 12 photos of the year will be put into our very own **2021 Westerly Land Trust Calendar** and all 12 winners will receive a calendar and one pound of Barlow Nature Preserve Honey. Calendars will go on sale at the end of this year.

**How to participate:** Submit your photos via email to [mlee@westerlylandtrust.org](mailto:mlee@westerlylandtrust.org), and please include your name and the WLT preserve featured in each photo. Photos can be submitted throughout the year until **October 1st** to give ample time to create the calendar before 2021.

**Please note:** When you submit your photos, you are giving WLT permission to use them on all our media outlets.



Photo Credit: Greg Pettys - Avondale Farm Preserve