

May/June Trail Hike Series 2025

Join the Thursday Hikers for free guided trail hikes on Thursday mornings. These hikes begin at 10:00 AM unless otherwise stated and leave promptly, so please arrive on time. This group will visit various local conservation properties, including some Westerly Land Trust (WLT) preserves. If you would like to lead a hike for the next series, please provide Sally with a date and a blurb.

Important Notes

- o **Sign Up Required:** Sign up with listed hike leader so they know how many are coming. If no one signs up the leader may not show up. Thursday hike is FREE.
- o **Distance/ Target Group:** Walks are 1 ½ to 3 hours and are open to all ages with the target group being agile seniors.
- Estimated Times: Ending times are estimated as it is difficult to ascertain when it will finish due to number of people, how fast/slow the hikers walk, etc. Hikes leave promptly.
- o Inclement weather: Inclement weather cancels and if in doubt, contact the leader.
- o Dogs: If you wish to bring a dog, contact the leader as some properties do not allow them. If a dog is present, they must be leashed at all times.
- o Trail Safety: These are wooded trails with stumps, roots and rocks so be sure to wear hiking boots or good walking shoes. Make sure you bring water and a snack if you want one.
- Snow: If there is a lot of snow consider bringing snowshoes, stabilizers, or something for traction.
- o **Thursday hike/WLT events:** <u>CLICK HERE</u> to sign up for WLT's email list and receive a monthly email including Thursday hike schedule and other WLT events/programs.

Fluorescent Orange Requirements

In State Management areas everyone is 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 last Thursday in April to the last day in May, annually.

Details

May 110:00 AM - 12:00 PMCarolina North trails, RichmondLeader: Bruno HancockPhone: 860 501-0472 Email: brunohancock58@gmail.comAbout four miles of hiking over gentle terrain in the Hope Valley/Richmond area. Meet at the DEMstation on south side of Pine Hill Road, and we will head north on the RI North-Southtrail. Ponds, rocky ledges, pine forests and wide gravel trails in abundance. 41.46621° N,71.69118° W

May 8 10:00 AM

10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Sheep Farm, Groton, CT

Leader: Janice Fifer Phone: 401-213-6479 Email: jhfifer@verizon.net A former sheep farm, this hilly property is maintained by Groton Open Space Association (GOSA). The well marked trails travel over rocks and ledges along a stream with 2 waterfalls for about 31/5 miles. (Spoiler Alert: The waterfalls look much bigger in pictures.) This is an example of typical New England upland, mostly deciduous forest that was saved from development due to the high cost of building there. Directions: Take Route 95 South to CT exit 88. Turn left and take the first left onto Hazelnut Hill Rd. The parking area is up the hill on the right. There are some picnic tables if you want to bring a lunch.

May 15 Leader: David Prigmore **10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Phone:** 401348-2855 Champlin Farm Preserve, Westerly Email: d.bprigmore@gmail.com This will be the first walk at the newly acquired Chaplin Preserve at 64 Boombridge Road in Westerly. The entrance is just north of a swamp area on the west side of Boombridge Roaad. Take the dirt road up the hill to parking at the top of the hill. The walk is through the woods, past granite outcropping, along the Pawcatuck River and past the gravel pit. It is moderate walking on new trails.

 May 22
 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
 Riverwood Preserve, Westerly

 Leader: Marc Doherty
 Phone: 508 308-9787 Email: mdoherty@westerlylandtrust.org

This property is part of the Westerly Land Trust's Pawcatuck River Corridor Initiative. It consists of 148 acres of woodland, rocky ridges and freshwater wetlands adjacent to the Pawcatuck River and the Boy Scout Camp. It has interesting quarry remnants, river views and descent through a beautiful gorge. Some climbing in rocky areas may be involved as the best views are from the higher elevations. Meet on Old Hopkinton Road at the end of Boy Scout Drive. Please park along the road - we will walk into the preserve from there.

May 29	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Carolina South trails, Richmond
Leader: Bruno Hancock	Phone: 860 501-0472 Email:	brunohancock58@gmail.com

A gentle 4-mile walk through fields and woodlands by the Pawcatuck River. We will see a canoe camp on the river, old foundations, and a historic cemetery along the way. Meet at the DEM station on the south side of Pine Hill Road in Carolina RI. 41.46621° N, 71.69118° W

June 510:00 AM - 1:00 PMGreen Falls, Pachaug Forest via Laurel Loop, Voluntown, CTLeader: Casey MerklePhone: 847 970-0229Email: coordinator@wpwildrivers.org

Hike is a 3.2-mile and moderately challenging hike in the Green Falls area of Pachaug State Forest. On this hike you will find old stone foundations, an old cemetery, delightful tributaries to the *Wild and Scenic* Green Fall River, a forested marsh and mountain laurel in abundance. From Westerly you travel on Rte 49 North where you come to State Forest Road/Fish Road on the right at a curve (there is a small sign on the right that reads "Green Falls Entrance"). Turn Right onto Fish Road and travel approximately 1 mile, pull-off parking area is on the right.

June 1210:00 AM - 11:30 AMWahaneeta, WesterlyLeader: David PrigmorePhone: 401348-2855Email: d.bprigmore@gmail.comEnd of Season Get Together will start as soon the hike ends

WLT has recreated the old Girl Scout trails on interesting moderate terrain. After the hike we will return to the starting point and have a picnic at the pavilion. Bring your own lunch, beverage and lawn chair. Wahaneeta Preserve is on left side of Moorehouse Road off Dunns Corner-Bradford Road. Turn in at Trombino Fields sign. **All parking must be inside Preserve**.

June 19 Paddles start!