



## 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 **Distance/ Target Group:** Walks are 1 ½ to 3 hours and are open to all ages with the target group being agile seniors.
- o **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.
- o **Thursday hike/WLT events:** [CLICK HERE](#) 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:

**September 18 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM Grills Preserve**

This walk on WLT's 500-acre preserve is over primarily flat terrain often along the Pawcatuck River on clear, wide trails. We will be able to see some newly discovered foundations. There is a gorgeous scenic view from the top of aptly named, Big Hill, which requires a bit of steep climbing. Meet at the parking lot at the cul-de-sac end off Bowling Lane in Bradford Village. Be aware of the construction being done on Bowling Lane, you are still able to drive all the way down though!

**Leader:** Janice Fifer      **Phone:** 401-213-6479      **Email:** [jhfifer@verizon.net](mailto:jhfifer@verizon.net)

**September 25 10:00 AM - 12:30PM Arcadia Management Area South, Richmond**

Approximately 5-mile walk through pine forests and along scenic rivers, including Roaring Brook. Rolling, undulating terrain with some challenging sections through boulder fields. Most of the walk will be on single-track wooded trails. Meet and park in the dirt parking lot on Route 3. (Exit 9 off I-95 North, then left at stop sign on to Route 3 South, and parking is on right just after you go under I-95). Trailhead GPS 41.538269, -71.679550

**Leader:** Jeff Walker      **Phone:** 401-447-1879      **Email:** [Jeffrey.walker@cox.net](mailto:Jeffrey.walker@cox.net)

**October 2 9:15 AM - 1:00 PM Stepstone Falls & Ben Utter Trail, West Greenwich - LEAVING PARK-n-RIDE @ 9:15 AM**

This is one of the more beautiful walks in the state. The trail starts out up hill. It passes through an abandoned state campground, and then drops back into the valley. It continues upstream along the right bank of the Falls River to the cascade and the parking lot. The loop is about 3

miles long over well-trodden trails. **Parking is limited so would suggest carpooling. Meet @ the park 'n ride on Rte 3 (Exit 1 off I-95) so we can leave from there @ 9:15 AM.** To get there take Rte 165 west 5 miles from Rte 3. Right (north) on Escoheag Hill Road (paved) 2.3 miles. Right on Falls River Road (gravel) 1 mile, down a steep grade. Park by the river.

**Leader:** Sally Hanson      **Phone:** 401 932-5295      **Email:** [sallyhanson242@gmail.com](mailto:sallyhanson242@gmail.com)

**October 9      10:40 AM - 12:00 PM** Tefftweald Preserve, 280 Grindstone Hill Road, North Stonington, CT

This Avalonia Conservancy Preserve in North Stonington offers a diverse hiking experience through dense woods, along rock ledges, up rocky knolls, along Wyassap Brook and a meadow. This site of a former Girl Scout Camp and has 2.1 miles of trails. Pets are not permitted. Access through driveway at 282 Grindstone Hill Road on crest of hill approx. 0.8 miles west of Rt 49. Park in designated area along lane. Please consider carpooling as the parking is limited.

**Leader:** Deirdre O'Connor      **Phone:** 860 287-7281      **Email:** [deirdreo@snet.net](mailto:deirdreo@snet.net)

**October 16      10:00 AM - 12:30 PM** Browning Woods Trail, South Kingstown

The well-marked 2.5 mile trail begins at about 100 feet above sea level, passing over a swamp and intermittent stream, before ascending to almost 200 feet through wooded uplands. We will view the remains of the Browning homestead and another long abandoned cellar hole. The Browning Woods Farm was part of the original Pettaquamscutt purchase and was in the Browning family for 10 generations before it was protected by SKLT. **Directions:** Approach from Rte 1, take a right on Gravelly Hill Road. Proceed 1.6 miles to a stop sign. Go straight onto Shannock Road. Proceed for 0.25 miles to a small gravel parking lot on the right side of the road. Very small parking lot, give yourself enough time to find a parking spot on Shannock Road or Moraine Court, if needed. OR better yet caravan. From Westerly: Rte 1 North to Perryville exit, stay on Rte 1 South, turn right onto Shannock Road, @ stop sign turn left, parking lot on right. N 41° 24.788' W 071° 36.362'

**Leader:** Sally Hanson      **Phone:** 401 932-5295      **Email:** [sallyhanson242@gmail.com](mailto:sallyhanson242@gmail.com)

**October 23      10:00 AM - 12:00 PM** Hewitt Farm, North Stonington, CT

An easy to moderate hike (3-4 mile) will take us on trails through wooded areas, along the Shunock river, through open fields, and by a small pond. From I95 southbound take exit 92 for CT-49 toward CT-2/Pawcatuck/No. Stonington. From the exit, turn right onto CT-49 N. In 0.8 mi turn left onto CT-184 W. At the traffic circle, take the 1st exit to CT Continue

to follow CT-2 W for 2.4 mile to the entrance to Hewitt Farm (right side of Rt 2 when driving west). GPS Coordinates: 41.446508, -71.892916. There is a large parking area on the left as you enter from Rte 2.

**Leader:** Sheri Shamblin      **Phone:** 860 326-4271      **Email:** [Sheri.shamblin@gmail.com](mailto:Sheri.shamblin@gmail.com)

**October 30      10:00 AM - 12:00 PM** Dr. John Champlin Glacier Park, Westerly

A walking tour of the WLT's Dr. John Champlin Glacier Park featuring wooded trails with gentle hills and some rocky sections. This site's unique geological features are worth the trip. Meet at the trailhead off of Tom Harvey Road just outside the entrance to Winnapaug Cottages. Please park in the designated area outside of the Winnapaug Cottages gate or in the parking lot across the street.

**Leader:** Janice Fifer      **Phone:** 401-213-6479      **Email:** [jhfifer@verizon.net](mailto:jhfifer@verizon.net)