



WESTPORT LAND CONSERVATION TRUST

Summer 2016



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www.WestportLandTrust.org



Westport Land Conservation Trust

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Since its founding in 1972, the Westport Land Conservation Trust has assisted landowners in protecting more than 4,000 acres in Westport, Massachusetts. WLCT is a private non-governmental organization dedicated to local land conservation on behalf of the Westport community. The organization accepts gifts of land and conservation restrictions on land, and assists farm owners in preserving farmland with agricultural preservation restrictions.

Cover photo, used with permission, by Maria Van Saun

WLCT is a tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) organization. Tax ID # 237 216 308

A Word from the President



While we had a warmer winter than the last few years, it still feels nice to see Westport heating up. It is such a relief to see the sun set after 8pm! All this daylight gives more time to explore our expanding trail system.

Our Stewardship staff has been hard at work for months to ensure that WLCT's 12+ miles of trails are ready for your next adventure. Our professional staff and volunteers continue to improve access to our destination properties, expand the acreage of protected land throughout town, and work with land owners to plan for the future. We could not do it without you.

After eleven years, we are taking a year off from the Barn Dance this summer but will host Livingston Taylor in concert at the Town Farm in August. Join our email list for updates on events throughout the year, ranging from our spring live owl show, now in its third year, to a summer kayaking series plus our popular (and free) guided walks and talks. They are hosted by experts and volunteers to encourage people to enjoy some of the special places preserved all over Westport. With all our events, the Land Trust tries to keep the cost low so more people and families can participate. So join us on a walk, tour one of our destination properties with the help of our free trail guide and enjoy everything Westport has to offer this summer.

Already this year, WLCT has protected 72 acres in five different projects. Your support of our mission is entirely responsible for this amazing success. In the coming months, we will have several large projects that need your help. After our last capital campaign in 2006, we built a reserve and were able to save hundreds of acres with this funding without asking for donations for each project. Now most of our reserve capital has been exhausted and we will need your help again to make these exciting new and crucial projects happen.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to saving special places in Westport.

Sincerely,

Trip Millikin
President

Town Farm Concert

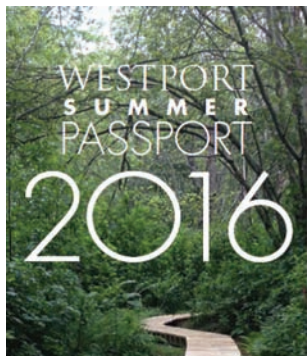
AUGUST 20: Livingston Taylor Live! Westport Town Farm at 830 Drift Road

Join the Westport Land Conservation Trust (WLCT), the Westport River Watershed Alliance (WRWA), and Livingston Taylor for our August 20th Town Farm Concert at 5:00 pm. Tickets are \$20 per person and are available for purchase at the event starting at 4:30 pm. **We hope the concert will highlight the importance of connecting to the land, especially through beautiful and meaningful music.**



This program is supported in part by a grant from the Westport Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

For more information visit www.WestportLandTrust.org
or call 508-636-9228.



Hello! Welcome to a quest for delightful and awesome places.
IF YOU JOINED US LAST SUMMER FOR OUR 2015 WESTPORT SUMMER PASSPORT, YOU VISITED SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND INTERESTING SPOTS IN TOWN. BUT IF YOU'RE NEW TO THE SUMMER PASSPORT, GET READY FOR SOME SERIOUS FAMILY FUN! THIS YEAR, WE'VE ADDED NEW CONSERVATION AREAS AND HISTORIC SITES TO THE LINEUP. FOR A TOTAL OF EIGHT, ALL FEATURED IN THIS PASSPORT. SO LET'S GET STARTED. IT'S EASY...JUST PICK YOUR FIRST LOCATION AND GO!

Summer Passport

Back by popular demand, the Westport Summer Passport is a self-guided family-friendly activity that runs from June 22-September 5. Visit eight locations, find the hidden boxes, and stamp your special passport.

Visit WestportLandTrust.org
to download your passport and get searching!

This program is supported in part by the Westport Historical Society and Westport Education Foundation. All walks are under 1.5 miles and cross uneven terrain. You may visit locations in any order, seven days a week, over multiple days if necessary. Please be considerate and replace the passport boxes in their hiding places.



Pride of Bristol Bay Wild Bristol Bay Sockeye Salmon are harvested by a select group of fishermen whose strict fishing and handling practices guarantee you an unprecedented level of quality.



Reserve your share at www.prideofbristolbay.com
and pick up in Westport on October 22nd!

LAND PROTECTION

Richmond Pond Wildlife Sanctuary

WLCT needs to raise \$510,000 for the purchase and stewardship of this unique property. We have raised 20% already but need your support to protect this amazing place.

This property is the longest, uninterrupted stretch of privately-owned beach in Westport. In addition to nearly 2,000' of undeveloped beach, the property also possesses over 2,400' of undeveloped shoreline on Richmond Pond, one of Westport's two coastal salt ponds. These features, combined with the property's remote location and limited vehicular access, make this a haven for birds and other wildlife.

The Westport Land Conservation Trust is purchasing the nineteen-acre property to protect this prime coastal bird habitat. Unlike WLCT's many recreation-based properties, the primary management purpose of the Richmond Pond Wildlife Sanctuary is to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat. The sanctuary will not host a parking lot or network of hiking trails. Access will be limited to pedestrian use, and dogs must be leashed at all times.



Great Blue Heron



a sanctuary for wildlife on a busy coastline

Forge Pond Phase II

WLCT needs to raise \$271,512 to purchase this special property. This is the amount needed after Town CPC funding of \$130,000. Your support will help us save this area for all to enjoy!

Forge Pond Phase II is an exciting project that will transform the Forge Pond Conservation Area. Conservation of this 33-acre property has been a priority for WLCT and the Town of Westport for several years. Title issues derailed its pending conservation in 2012. Following the resolution of those issues, WLCT has again secured the right to purchase the property. This forested property hosts a beautiful walking trail that passes through a small wetland before entering a mature pine and hardwood forest.

(cont'd on next page)



Noquochoke River north of Reed Road.

Forge Pond Phase II (cont'd)

The Noquochoke River, a major tributary of the East Branch of the Westport River, serves as the western boundary of the property. Immediately west of this property is 10 acres owned by WLCT and 26 acres owned by the Town of Westport.

Conservation of this property creates a unique opportunity to link 69 acres for future recreational use. A bridge across the river could provide access to this land from multiple trail entrances.



Proposed expansion to the Forge Pond Conservation Area.

Angeline Brook Project

In March, we partnered with the Buzzards Bay Coalition to conserve two neighboring properties totaling 50 acres of land along Angeline Brook. The two properties run along Cornell Road and provide some of the last remaining pristine and intact sea-run brook trout habitat in all of Buzzards Bay.



A sea-run brook trout (Salter) caught in Angeline Brook by Robert Golder.

Robert Golder

Historically, sea-run brook trout could be found in coldwater streams all along the southern New England coast. However, as a result of coastal development, Angeline Brook in Westport is one of only a handful of these streams that still exist along the coast from New York to Cape

Cod. Protecting the natural forests and wetlands that surround Angeline Brook is key in order to maintain the right water temperature and provide areas for fish to spawn. In addition, protecting forests and wetlands will help to protect clean water in the Westport River and Buzzards Bay.

The two properties are now owned in fee by WLCT as an expansion of our most iconic destination property: The Herb Hadfield Conservation Area. WLCT has assumed management and stewardship of these two properties and looks forward to protecting these properties in perpetuity.

The Buzzards Bay Coalition helped coordinate the project by securing the contracts to purchase both properties as well as raising over \$165,000 in federal and state grants and private contributions. In addition, the Mass Department of Fish & Game will hold a conservation restriction providing an extra layer of protection, and The Trustees provided funding to support the project.



The main tributary of Angeline Brook.

Ruiz Donation

We are excited to announce a 7-acre land donation from Jose and Andrea Ruiz this last May. Along with recent acquisitions, this gift expands our most iconic destination property, the Herb Hadfield Conservation Area, to 158 acres. Protection of this land assures the continued protection of clean water in Angeline Brook – one of the most pristine cold-water streams in all of Buzzards Bay.

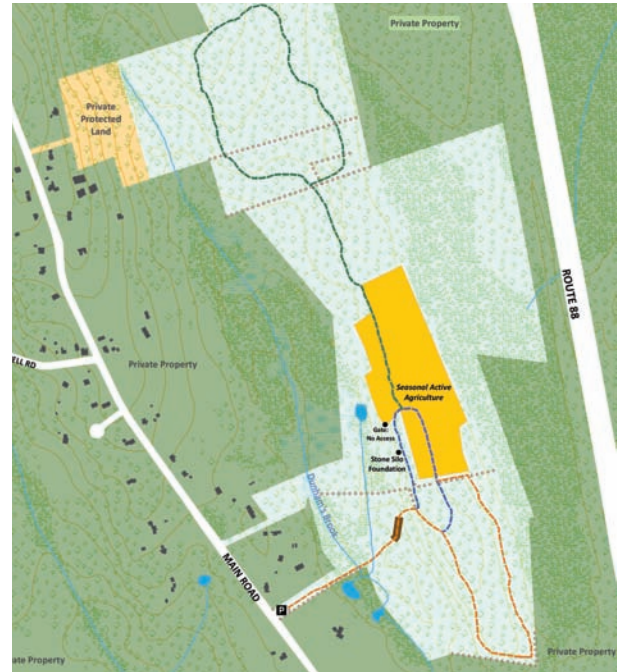


Roberts Donation

Last December, we were humbled to announce our largest, single-parcel land gift ever. The 66-acre donation, made by Shannon Meadow Trust, Bruce & Dinny Roberts, Trustees, expands the popular Dunham's Brook Conservation Area to a total of 159 acres.

The generosity of the Roberts Family will enable current and future generations of Westport residents to enjoy a wild and scenic recreational experience.

The forested property, located north of the existing preserve, is primarily upland hardwoods, with the Dunham's Brook on the western edge and forested wetlands on a portion of the eastern flank. Access to the Dunham's Brook Conservation Area is via a parking lot on the east side of Main Road, two and a half miles south of Central Village (1520 Main Road).



“My mother loved this land from the time she bought it,” said Dinny Roberts. “She instilled in us a love for this land, and it has always been a shared family desire to conserve it.”

The Dunham's Brook Conservation Area currently hosts a little over a mile of hiking trails which pass through a variety of wetland and upland natural communities. One of the trails bisects a thirteen-acre farm field on the preserve, providing a unique experience in the summer when the corn on both sides of the trail is over the heads of walkers.

After some minor clearing and maintenance, the new parcel will immediately add over one mile of new trails; bringing the preserve total to slightly over two miles of trails.

“For my family, conserving land that you love seems like a logical conclusion to your ownership,” Roberts added. Sadly, Bruce recently passed away. This donation leaves a lasting conservation legacy for his family and the Westport community.

The wonderful lands that have been conserved in Westport have only been possible because people care about their land and the landscape of our community. We encourage any landowner who wants to leave a lasting legacy to give our office a call. We're selective about the lands that we protect, but there are still many properties in Westport worthy of protection.

STEWARDSHIP

Herb Hadfield Meadow Update

In early March, we received news that our Herb Hadfield Grassland Meadow Restoration project proposal to MassWildlife's competitive Habitat Management and Improvement Grant program had been successful. We were awarded \$12,122.95 in grant funding from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to complete the 5.75-acre grassland meadow restoration at the recently expanded 158-acre Herb Hadfield Conservation Area.

Consistent with a 2009 WLCT management plan authored by forester Mike Labossiere, formerly of The Trustees, the restoration initiative began in early 2015 with the clearing of a 5.75-acre section within the central portion of the Herb Hadfield Conservation Area. The project has rapidly progressed since the initial timber harvest and to date we have seeded over 300 lbs. of native warm season grass mix and installed ten nesting boxes on the site to improve wildlife habitat for a variety of bird species. We look forward to seeding native wildflowers in subsequent years.



Herb Hadfield Grassland Meadow Restoration Timeline To Date

- **Spring, 2009:** Westport Land Conservation Trust revises the 2001 management plan for the Herb Hadfield Conservation Area written by Russ Hopping, Ecology Program Director for The Trustees. Given the landscape context, forester Mike Labossiere, formerly of The Trustees and author of the management plan, includes a 5-acre timber harvest to be turned into an interior meadow to promote wildlife habitat.
- **Spring, 2015:** Westport Land Conservation Trust clears a 5.75-acre section of land within the Herb Hadfield Conservation Area. The clearing is managed as a successional shrubland over the summer to promote habitat for the New England cottontail—a candidate for protection under the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species program—as well as other species which require shrubland habitat such as the American Woodcock.
- **Fall, 2015:** Westport Land Conservation Trust submits a proposal to the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's competitive Habitat Management and Improvement Grant Program to complete a grassland meadow restoration at the Herb Hadfield Conservation Area.
- **Spring, 2016:** Westport Land Conservation Trust is awarded \$12,122.96 from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to complete the Herb Hadfield Grassland Meadow restoration. Funding is to be used for habitat enhancement on the site by seeding native warm season grasses and installing nesting boxes throughout the project area.
- **Summer, 2016:** Westport Land Conservation Trust seeds over 300 lbs. of native warm season grass mix and installs nesting boxes on the site to improve wildlife habitat for grassland birds.

Mill Pond Orchard Update



On April 16th, over 20 volunteers and Westport Land Conservation Trust staff planted eight new fruit trees at the Mill Pond Conservation Area. This year's planting was again led by volunteer Emily Vogler, a landscape architect who teaches at the Rhode Island School of Design. Emily has taken on management of the small fruit grove for WLCT since early 2015.

Many towns have community gardens where individuals have plots. We want to take that a step further in Westport. This small fruit grove is an attempt to bring the community together under one plot. In a few years, we hope that the public will be able to take a walk here and pick an apple along the way.



Two-year-old Rowan helps with the planting.



STEWARDSHIP

Old Harbor Wildlife Refuge Selective Cutting

You may notice some activity at the Old Harbor Wildlife Refuge this summer. We have been working with our forester, Rupert Grantham of Walden Forest Conservation, to finalize a cutting plan for the property to improve wildlife habitat and promote sustainable forestry practices.

This cutting plan will look quite a bit different than our 2015 tree harvest at the Herb Hadfield Conservation Area. Rather than cutting one portion of the property, we will be select cutting several portions of the Old Harbor Wildlife Refuge. As you may know, forests in Westport have had some trouble with invasive Gypsy Moth and Winter Moth in the past few years. It is important that we take an active approach to management and stewardship of these special places.

ANNUAL MEETING

Noquochoke Conservation Area Grand Opening

On May 18, we hosted over 60 people for our 44th Annual Meeting and the grand opening of our newest destination property: The Noquochoke Conservation Area (421 Pine Hill Road). Acquired in 2012 through the generous land gift of Lucy Keefe, the 20-acre forested property contains three-quarters of a mile of trails that, along with the kiosk, were the Eagle Scout project of Daniel Bellavance.



Over the past 44 years, we have been honored to partner with many worthy parties who have gone above and beyond to support land protection in Westport. Over the past year we have been inspired by the commitment of three parties who were recognized with our first ever Conservationist Award and Volunteer Award.



For our inaugural Conservationist Award, two honorees: the Roberts Family, donors of 66 acres adjacent to Dunham's Brook Conservation Area, and Jennifer Holske Dubois, longtime champion of land protection in Westport. Jennifer Dubois (left with Ryan Mann) recently left The Trustees after close to nine years in various positions. Throughout her tenure, she was involved with enabling the great success in land conservation in Westport including, most notably, the preservation of the historic 40-acre Westport Town Farm.

The Roberts Family, donors of 66 acres adjacent to Dunham's Brook Conservation Area, are long-time conservationists and lovers of the Westport landscape. Their 66-acre land gift is the largest single-parcel gift in WLCT history.

Our inaugural Volunteer Award was presented to the Tuesday Trail Team for their commitment of over 700 hours of service. From clearing trails and building stone walls, to burning brush and improving public access, the Tuesday Trail Team (at right) has enabled a number of important projects that our capacity would not have otherwise allowed.



WLCT WALKS AND EVENTS

Westport Summer Passport - June 22 – September 5: Join this fun, self-guided family quest that takes you to beautiful places throughout Westport. Visit WestportLandTrust.org to download and print your passport and get searching! See page 3 for more information.

Sea Kayaking Adventure Series - Saturday, July 16 and Saturday, September 10: Join the Westport Land Conservation Trust (WLCT) and Osprey Sea Kayak Adventures (OSKA) for a tour of the Westport River and conserved lands! Reservations are required ahead of time by contacting Brendan@WestportLandTrust.org.

Full Moon Walk at Herb Hadfield Conservation Area - Tuesday, July 19, 10:00 pm: Join WLCT staff for a fun hike during the full moon! Meet at the parking lot at 255 Cornell Road.

Backpack Babies and Toddlers Picnic and Walk at Mill Pond Conservation Area - Saturday, July 23, 12:00-1:30 pm: Join Kate Neave for a “bring your own” picnic and short walk just right for little ones. Please leave your pet at home (we love dogs, but small children often find them challenging). Meet at the Reed Road parking lot near the Senior Center.

Women’s Walk at Herb Hadfield Conservation Area - Friday, July 29, 9:00 am: Hey Ladies! Grab your gal pals, daughters, moms, grand girls, sisters and nieces for a Women's Walk with Kate Neave at the Herb Hadfield Conservation Area. Meet rain or shine at 9 am at the parking lot at 255 Cornell Road.

Early Morning Hike at the Dunham’s Brook Conservation Area - Saturday, July 30, 8:30 am: Join Brendan Buckless, for a hike through the recently expanded Dunham’s Brook Conservation Area. Be prepared to walk at least three miles over uneven terrain. Meet at the parking lot at 1520 Main Road.

Forest Succession at the Noquochoke Conservation Area - Saturday, August 6, 10:00 am: Join naturalist, Mark Strauss, for an interpretive hike at the recently opened Noquochoke Conservation Area, the former site of Camp Noquochoke. Please be prepared to walk at least two miles over uneven terrain. Meet at the parking lot at 421 Pine Hill Road.

Headwaters Conservation Area Hike - Thursday, August 11, 4:00 pm: Enjoy a peaceful afternoon hike with Westport Land Conservation Trust Stewardship Special Projects Intern, Joy Smith. Prepare to walk several miles through the northern woods of one of Westport’s finest conservation areas. Meet at the parking lot at 187 Blossom Road.

Native Plants of the Old Harbor Wildlife Refuge - Wednesday, August 17, 10:00 am: Join horticulturist, Sally Godfrey, at the Old Harbor Wildlife Refuge to explore the native plant communities of Westport Harbor. Please plan to walk several miles over uneven terrain. Meet at the parking lot at 386 Old Harbor Road.

Town Farm Concert – Livingston Taylor Live! - Saturday, August 20, 5:00 pm: Bring a picnic blanket, your friends and family to enjoy Livingston Taylor LIVE in Concert at the Town Farm. \$20 per person. Tickets sold at the event starting at 4:30 pm only. See page 3 for more information.

The Pride of Bristol Bay Alaskan Sockeye Salmon Cookout at the Town Farm - Saturday, October 22: Join WLCT and Pride of Bristol Bay commercial fishing fleet Captain Matt Luck for a sustainably harvested, wild-caught Alaskan salmon cookout. Visit prideofbristolbay.com to reserve your sockeye salmon share for pick-up at the cookout.



Visit www.WestportLandTrust.org for details

All Walks are FREE and open to the public. Wear comfortable sturdy shoes and be prepared for moderate walking on uneven terrain. For last minute cancellations due to weather please see our Facebook page.

WLCT Interns of 2016

The Westport Land Conservation Trust (WLCT) is thrilled to receive a grant from BayCoast Bank. The grant, facilitated with the help of BayCoast Bank Branch Manager Gina Palmer, will allow WLCT to pay two interns from the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth to work closely with WLCT's Outreach and Stewardship Coordinator in managing over 1,000 acres of land currently held by WLCT. Additionally, both interns will be responsible for coordinating outreach projects related to stewardship and community engagement.



2016 Interns: Joy Smith, Nolan Kearney, Evan Turick

Our Stewardship Special Projects intern, Joy Smith, will also be tasked with helping to coordinate the Herb Hadfield Conservation Area grassland meadow restoration and the Mill Pond Conservation Area community fruit grove. Our General Stewardship Intern, Evan Turick, is also tasked with mentoring our Summer High School Stewardship Assistant, Nolan Kearney.

Nolan Kearney is a rising junior at Boston College High School. His passions are the classical languages, Latin and Ancient Greek, acting and movie making, and web design. At school, he participates in plays and does shot-put in the spring. His family moved to Westport four years ago and now has three horses, a goat, and many chickens.

Joy Smith, from Acushnet, is a recent graduate from UMass Dartmouth with a bachelor's degree in marine biology. In the fall, Joy will be heading to graduate school to study environmental policy. She developed a love for the Town of Westport last summer, after interning for the Westport River Watershed Alliance. With WRWA, Joy learned about the abundance of habitats in the area and developed a greater appreciation for land protection. While working for the Westport Land Conservation Trust, she hopes to learn all of the fundamentals regarding conservation and maintenance. She is honored and thrilled to be working for the WLCT and aspires to work for a non-profit just like them in the future.

Evan Turick is a Junior at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth studying computer science. Last summer he worked as a member of the Youth Corps with The Trustees. In his free time he writes and records music, makes YouTube videos, and enjoys the outdoors. He is a member of the UMass Dartmouth Acapella group: Mental Note, and has performed in a number of plays and musicals as well. Evan lives in Westport with his family and likes to spend time enjoying the woods, the river and the beach.

WLCT would like to thank BayCoast Bank and Gina Palmer for their funding of this grant. Grants such as these are incredibly important to WLCT and we appreciate BayCoast Bank's generosity.



Thank You For Giving

Thank you for giving in so many different ways over the years to enhance WLCT's land conservation success. Businesses donate time, labor and expertise. Volunteers donate their time and talents. Many people donate funds to save land and support WLCT as contributing members.

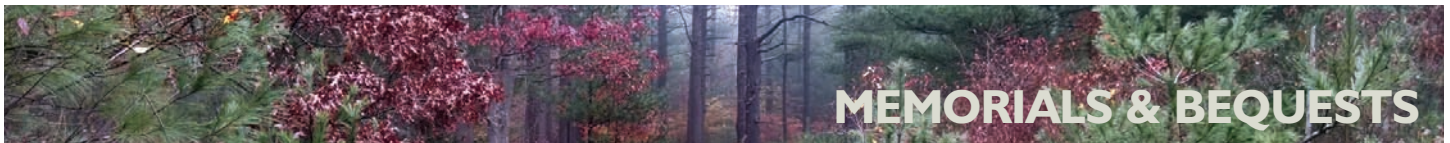
With diverse donations, WLCT supporters are creating lasting legacies by preserving land that protects woods, water, wildlife and our shared quality of life in Westport. Donors can also benefit tax-wise since donations to WLCT, a 501c3 nonprofit land trust organization, are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Below is a sampling of how people are giving to WLCT now, to save land for tomorrow.

Giving to Save Land

- Membership donations, year-end gifts, appreciated securities and other unrestricted gifts support WLCT to advance land conservation, stewardship, and other important projects.
- Restricted land donations to WLCT help to preserve priority lands within watersheds that help protect sensitive water resources.
- Donations of land and/or conservation restrictions.
- For some supporters, a bequest is a forward thinking way of making a significant gift to WLCT.

You may provide a bequest for WLCT by creating a new will, creating a codicil to your present will, including WLCT in your revocable trust, or designating WLCT as the beneficiary of your retirement plan or insurance policy. To ensure that your exact intentions are carried out; wills, codicils and trusts should be prepared by and with the advice of an attorney. WLCT is available for additional information on the various methods of designating a bequest to WLCT or for guidance on planning a gift.

You make WLCT possible. You make land conservation possible. Thanks again!



IN MEMORY OF:

Betty Brewster

Richard and Alison Jones

Joan Galligan Capone

Paul Capone

Robert Coughlin

David Bechhofer and Kate Neave
Anne and McBee Butcher
Bill and Judy Gault
William G. Grigsby
Patricia Gurevitch
Janet Jones
Joan B. May

Chip Gillespie

James and Nancy Laird

Louie and Sally Howland

Sarah (Sally) Howland Godfrey

Llewellyn Howland

Sandy and Hope Hale

Edith and Edward Jones

Gary and Janet Matulis

Richard Kugler

Virginia Adams
Donna Brayton
Edward and Louise Bush
Gilbert and Frima Shapiro
Calvin and Sue Siegal
Robert and Judith Sterns

Thomas Marum

John and Grace Carroll
Tim and Phyllis Isaacs
M. Langhorne Keith
Daniel and Suzanne Kidd
Frances Riley and Karin Porter
David and Kimberly Pratt
Derek and Ann Slusher
Michael and Ann Welch
Larry and Lisa Witlen

Joe Maxwell

Joel Maxwell and Jason Livingston

Joseph Perry, Jr.

Lori Perry and Jeffrey King

Jonathan and Gladys Potter

Robin and Jonathan Potter, Jr.

Bruce Roberts

Patricia Armstrong
Katharine Fox Burnett
Grace Newcomer
Lee Tyler Robbins
Ed Walker
Gale Warmuth

Jim Robbins

Hilary Robbins Thomas

Dr. Robert Sears

Norma Sears

Barbara Taccogna

Joseph Taccogna

Armen H. Tashjian Jr.

Carol M. Tashjian

Rose Wojciechowski

Frank and Mark Wojciechowski

IN HONOR OF:

Kathy Burdon

Robert and Daphne Borden

Sally Godfrey

Llewellyn and Jessie Howland, III

Kate Neave

Andre Fernandes

George Skandalis

Caroline Bolter

Woody Underwood

John and Corbin Harwood, II

Clement Van Buren

Jill Bresky



Westport Land Conservation Trust

P.O. Box 3975

830 Drift Road, Westport, MA 02790

Livingston Taylor LIVE!
Saturday, August 20th
details on page 3

New Faces in the WLCT Office



Brendan Buckless has been our Outreach and Stewardship Coordinator since last November. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Vermont and completed a year of service as an Environmental Educator for the Buzzards Bay Coalition in 2015. A resident of Westport, Brendan is a certified sea kayaking instructor.



Peter Woodhouse joined WLCT in February and is the Fundraising Campaign Coordinator. Peter has a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from Evergreen State College and a Master's degree in Environmental Policy from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Peter lives in Dartmouth with his wife and dog and loves the beach, fishing and the ocean.

