

**Westport Land Conservation Trust**  
**2023 Board of Directors, Members at Large election**

**Geoff Swaebe**

I first connected with the WLCT after a neighbor suggested that we try to work together to improve an old field behind our homes that had been increasingly overtaken by invasives. I had no idea what trying to “improve” a field might involve. But one day, as I drove by Westport Woods, I noticed the warm season grass meadow. I called to find out more about that field and that same afternoon, Ross Moran and Brendan Buckless came over to look at our field. Their visit, encouragement, and suggestions helped to start the native plant meadow project we’re aiming for in our backyard. Their visit also led me to join the Tuesday Trail Team which has been an enormous amount of fun!

I’ve spent most of my life in cities and connections with the natural world are simply more difficult there—not so where we live now. The seasons, the lands, the waters, the wild-life that’s here, or that is passing through, they’re all here for our attention.

Over the last year I’ve also learned something about Herb Hadfield and his love for Westport. He once said:

“Westport is a montage of things; it’s a whole encyclopedia. It has that wonderful combination of fields and woods and ocean and beach. I’ve never seen anything like it any place else. There are so many things and so many people in this town who are so beautiful and good. I’ve never met so many thinking and caring people in one place, and it’s just this environment that has attracted them all.”

I agree!