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Westport, CT 06881-0444

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Aspetuck Land Trust Newsletter

Fall 2011

IMPROVING OUR TRAILS

The CT Northeast Mountain Biking Association helps to improve our trails in Trout Brook Valley. The latest project took place on the Blue Trail, just north of the permit parking area. Over 100 hours of volunteer labor were contributed!



CT NEMBA volunteers from left: Dave Francefort and Ryan Tucker

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

Ken Bernhard of Westport is a lawyer with Cohen and Wolf and serves on numerous non-profit boards including the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation. He is currently co-chair of the League of Conservation Voters. Ken recently volunteered with Soles4Soles with his grandson to collect and donate 650 pairs of shoes for children living in shantytowns in Costa Rica. "For most of the kids it was their first pair of new shoes and they beamed with delight."



Ken Bernhard with an elephant he helped to save from poachers in Africa.

TAKE A HIKE – OUR TOP PRESERVES TO EXPLORE

Best Stone Walls

The 40-acre Poindexter Preserve in Easton is a great hike with old stone walls throughout, and a magical, wonderfully silent pine grove. This is a special place off the beaten path.



Natural Playground for Children

The new natural playground at the 20-acre Leonard Schine Preserve in Westport is for children, ages 3-7. The playground has areas for fort building, digging, tea-parties, tower-climbing, trail-walking, stick-stacking, nature collages and more. There is even an "elvin village" where children can play with pine cone "dolls", honing both their imaginations and their fine motor skills. Trail maps available at preserve.



Best Bridges to Meander Across

The 21-acre Stonebridge Waterfowl Preserve in Weston offers a gentle hike through a beautiful meadow with upland and river trails and the

signature "stone bridge" which allows hikers to feel as if they are literally walking on water. Another elevated wooden footbridge offers safe passage over the Saugatuck River. Trail maps available at preserve.

Most Wild and Scenic

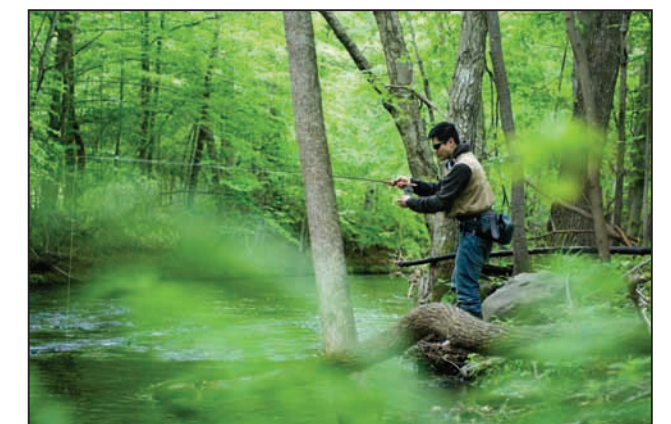
The 1,009-acre Trout Brook Valley Conservation Area in Easton/Weston has over 20 miles of trails. Start at Bradley Road parking area and take the Red trail up a steep rocky incline using a rope hold for footing. At #21, take the Purple Trail to Popp Mountain for stunning views of the Saugatuck Reservoir. You will really feel like you are getting away. You can also hike to the lookout at #21 on the Orange Trail for a great view of the valley. And hiking to the orchard is always a treat for the world class hawk habitat and views of Long Island Sound. Trail maps available at preserve.

Most Genteel

The 16-acre Haskins preserve in Westport is the former estate of world-renowned scientists Caryl and Edna Haskins. This beautiful preserve has a groomed park like feel with specimen trees throughout the lawns and wooded trails to hike.

Best Trout Fishing

Warner Anglers Preserve in Easton provides three fishing access points on the Mill River on South Park Rd. in Easton. For tips and best practices contact the Nutmeg Chapter of Trout Unlimited.



Aspetuck Land Trust maintains 43 trailed nature preserves on over 1,700 acres. Click Maps/Town on our website to find a preserve near you!

EXPLORER AND WESTON RESIDENT RICHARD WIESE SPEAKS AT ANNUAL MEETING

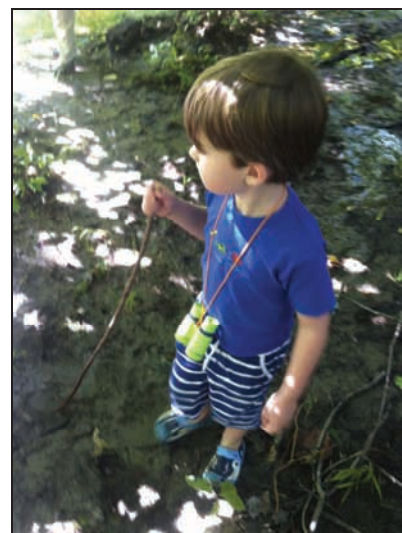
Explorer Richard Wiese spoke at Aspetuck Land Trust's annual meeting on June 24th, at the Pequot Library. Richard is host of a new adventure TV show on ABC, "Born To Explore," which offers viewers a chance to partake in spectacular travels of nature, culture, and the planet we inhabit.



Explorer Richard Wiese

SHORT HIKES FOR SHORT PEOPLE

Our new hikes for children are popular among parents and kids! We believe it is important for children to experience nature for their physical health and well being.

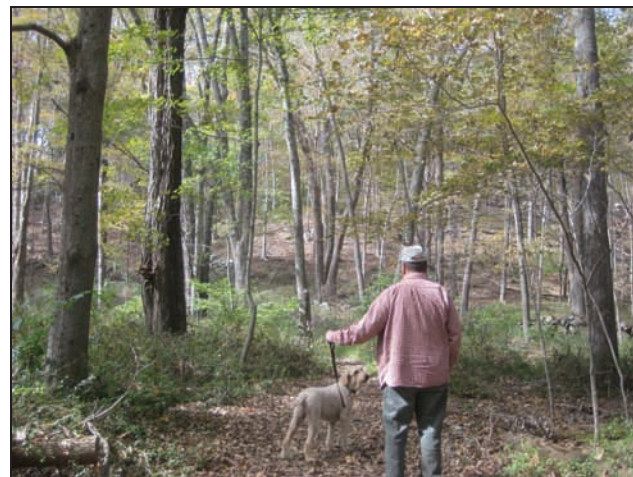


A Young Explorer

WILDLIFE SURVEY BEING CONDUCTED IN TROUT BROOK VALLEY

A wildlife survey is being conducted in the Trout Brook Valley Conservation Area (TBV) to better understand the flora and fauna that exist there. A survey of wildlife has never been conducted within the entire 1,009 acres of the preserve. The survey will help us to better understand how to manage the preserve for wildlife and our human visitors. We are asking people who visit the preserve with their dogs to keep them on leash while the survey is conducted over the next year.

For more information on the survey, please visit our website at www.aspetucklandtrust.org.



A hiker walks his dog on leash in Trout Brook Valley

TAKING ON INVASIVE PLANTS

The Land Trust has launched a campaign to remove invasive plants from our nature preserves and educate the public about their negative impacts. Invasive plants pose a threat to our native plant species, forest health, and wildlife and increase your risk of contracting Lyme disease by seven-fold!

Visit our website for more information on invasive plants. Follow us on



FALL HIKES



Hawk hike leader Larry Fischer

Aspetuck Land Trust conducted 17 guided hikes for adults and children this year. These hikes are a great way to explore and learn more about the diversity of our 43 trailed nature preserves on over 1,700 acres of land in our community.

Land Trust members get the first opportunity to sign up for these popular hikes. Join us!

FALL HUNTING SEASON

ALT does not allow hunting on our properties. There is limited permit-only hunting in the State-owned portion of Trout Brook Valley. The hunting area is posted in the preserve.

- Archery Season (Deer & Turkey): 9/15 thru 11/15 & 12/21 thru 12/31
- Shotgun Season (Turkey): 10/1 thru 10/31
- Muzzleloader Season (Deer) 12/7 thru 12/20

Visit our website for hunting FAQ's.

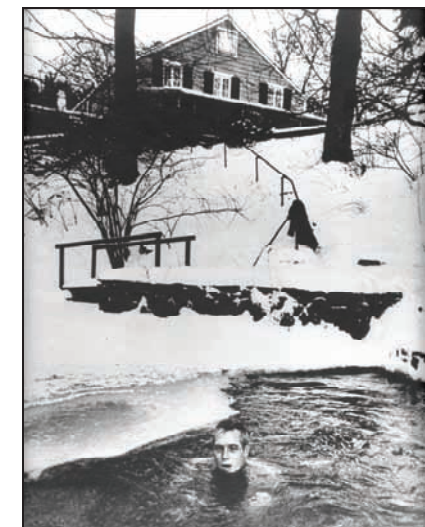
NEWMAN POSES PRESERVE OPENS

The new 39-acre Newman Poses preserve in Westport officially opened this summer. Town and Land Trust officials and the Newman family were on hand to dedicate the preserve in memory of Westport resident, actor and philanthropist Paul Newman who donated a portion of the land to the town of Westport. The preserve is also named after Lillian Poses who sold a portion of the land to the town. The preserve features a unique meadow which

provides important habitat for birds and turtles, a trail along the Aspetuck River, and trails through a hardwood upland forest. The preserve entrance is located between 307 and 313 Bayberry Lane. Stop by for a hike.



At the grand opening from left: Land Trust Board President, Princie Falkenhagen; Westport First Selectman, Gordon Joselof; Board Member, Lissy Newman; Executive Director, David Brant



Paul Newman swimming in the Aspetuck River which borders the preserve. In winter!

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE LAND TRUST

Thank you to our now nearly 1,000 members for their support! If you aren't yet a member, we invite you to join us! Click Support Us at www.aspetucklandtrust.org or return the enclosed envelope. Thank you!