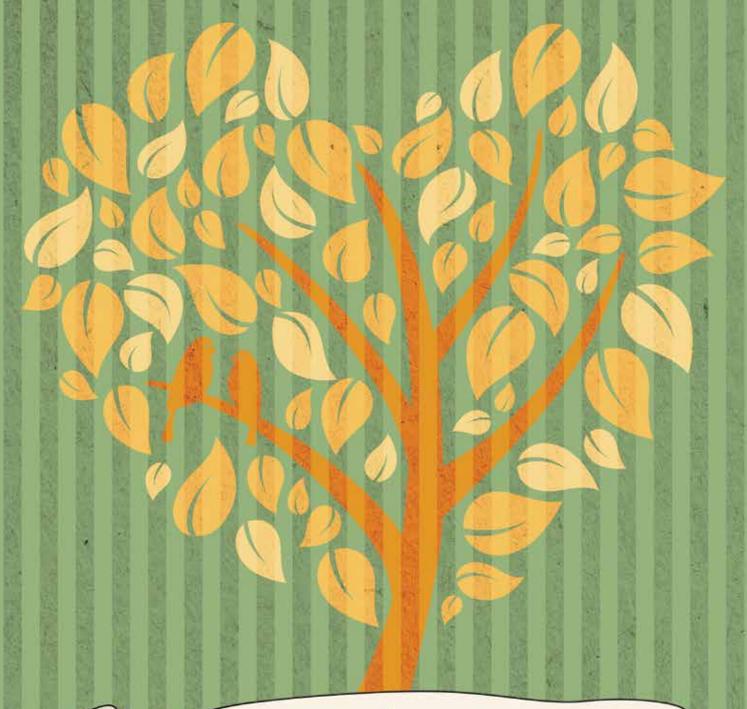
ASPETUCK LAND TRUST

2016 ANNUAL REPORT





Dear Aspetuck Land Trust Supporter,

Since 1966, the Aspetuck Land Trust has partnered with our members to preserve land as open space and nurture a love of nature in Fairfield County residents. In this year's annual report we reflect on the accomplishments of our 50th Anniversary year and celebrate the many Aspetuck Land Trust supporters whose financial and volunteer contributions make our work possible.

Aspetuck Land Trust supporters have many faces. They are people like Elizabeth Gaynor, Aspetuck Land Trust member and Trail Steward at Old Hay Fields Preserve in Fairfield, who loves the old fields and stone walls that make up Fairfield County's disappearing past. Or 13-year-old Owen Harlacker who loves to work with his hands in the blueberry orchard and hike for hours in Trout Brook Valley.

This annual report is dedicated to the 1,004 Aspetuck Land Trust member supporters who made a donation in 2016 and the hundreds of volunteers who give their time and passion to something larger than **themselves – local nature.** We work hard every year to earn your support by preserving more land, improving more wildlife habitats, and getting more people outdoors.

With state and federal government budgets under pressure and uncertainty over future environmental priorities, it's more important now than ever to support local conservation groups like Aspetuck Land Trust (ALT). While environmental policy may change, our commitment to protecting the environment and the land we steward never will. For us the land comes first!

If you're not a current member, join a growing movement of people who care about their local environment by supporting Aspetuck Land

Trust. If you're already an Aspetuck Land Trust supporter, encourage a friend to support us. Ride a bike. Go solar. Start using a sustainable lawn care service. Support your local farmer. Be more green.

With deep appreciation and thanks for your support!

Dick Ritzel President

David Brant

Executive Director

We've made it easy to support us by enclosing a pre-addressed envelope. Or you can donate online by visiting our secure website at aspetucklandtrust.org. All donations are tax-deductible.



Watch the "Why Should I Be a Member" video on our website!

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Celia Campbell-Mohn

Vice President of Finance

Alan Goldbecker

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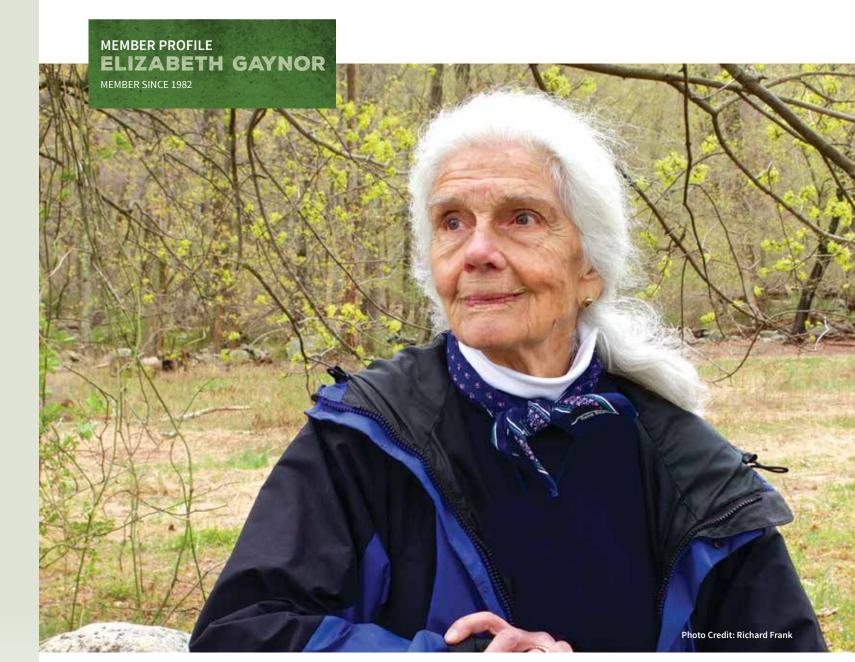
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ELIZABETH GAYNOR has the striking elegance of a dancer and the solid walk of a lobster trapper - she's been both, and it shows when she tramps through the hayfield across the street from where she has lived for decades. Her love for the farm's land and animals, songbirds, and the rocky walls other field over there and donated it." that meander through the weeds is why she's happy to serve as Trail Steward.

Trust by Ruth Berlin," Gaynor points out as she skirts a particularly aggressive bramble. She pluckes thorns from the fabric of her sleeve. "Neighbors got together, spearheaded by Frances Snyder. They bought the

"This hayfield was donated to the With her long white hair and graceful air, Gaynor looks more like a character out of a woodsy fairytale than a resident concerned about preserving open space. She loves her duties as Trail Steward. She hardly considers her daily tramps across the dry hayfields a job; the smell of dirt makes this woman happy.

We love Colleen Noyes' enthusiasm for salt marshes.





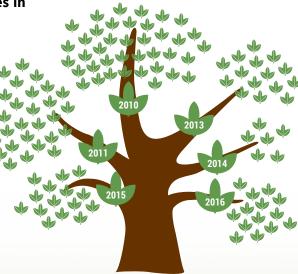
PRESERVING LOCAL OPEN SPACE - 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

Preserving local open space is one of the most important things Aspetuck Land Trust supporters do. Since 1966, Aspetuck Land Trust has protected 149 properties on 1,800+ acres in the towns of Westport, Weston, Fairfield, Easton, Redding, Wilton, and Bridgeport.

In 2016 we preserved 14.75 acres of land in Redding on Giles Hill Road and .65 acres on Harbor Road in Southport overlooking Southport Harbor. The Southport property prevents future development of the shoreline and preserves native shellfish beds and spartina grasses found in our dwindling coastal salt marshes. We negotiated the purchase of 38-acres in Weston for \$367,000 which will expand our 86-acre Honey Hill Preserve. We received a \$50,000 grant from the William C. Bullitt Foundation whose President, Tracy Pennoyer, lives in Weston and are seeking support from other state and federal sources. The Belknap property is key parcel in Aspetuck

Land Trust's forest block assemblage project to conserve 410 acres in one of the last undeveloped interior forest blocks in Weston and Wilton. We received a \$10,000 grant from the Jessie B. Cox Trust to support landowner outreach in

the forest block area.



= 1 acre of preserved land

Regional Land Conservation Effort Announced

Aspetuck Land Trust is a participant in the Hudson to Housatonic Regional Conservation Partnership (H2H) to advance more interstate land conservation projects between the Hudson and Housatonic Rivers in New York and Connecticut. Regional conservation partnerships in New England play an important role in preserving large connected tracts of land for public benefit.

Aspetuck Land Trust Executive Director David Brant who was appointed to the newly formed H2H Steering Committee said, "We are excited to be a part of this larger regional effort to preserve and connect more open space in our towns and beyond." For more information or to find out ways to get involved visit: **h2hrcp.org**



The Belknap property is characterized by a temperate deciduous forest dominated by tall growing broadleaf trees that form a dense canopy. Within the forest lie 8 acres of palustrine inland wetlands inclusions with forested and scrub/shrub components. An acidic rock boulder seepage wetland is located on the north side of the property.





We love Milan Bull's bird calls. • We love Victor DeMasi for leading our butterfly hike.

TAKING CARE OF THE LAND - 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

With the generous support of our member/supporters we conducted ecological assessments and conservation and management plans on 11 properties and are actively improving wildlife habitats on 40 acres of land. Our protected open spaces provide safe refuge for more than 500 species of mammals, birds, amphibians, insects, and plants. Hundreds of dedicated volunteers are involved in pruning blueberries and apple trees, serving as trail stewards, removing invasive plants, and building trails.



Watch the "Taking Care of the Land" video on our website to learn more.

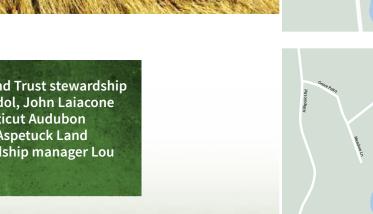
New Osprey Platforms in Westport

Two new osprey platforms were installed in Westport at the 3.2-acre Taylortown Salt Marsh Preserve in downtown Westport (corner of Wilton Rd. and and Kings Hwy. North) and at the 6.7-acre Allen Salt Marsh Preserve off Grove Point Road. These magnificent birds recovered from near extinction after the government banned DDT. Thanks to Phil & Tom Ice Cream of Westport for donating funds to erect the platforms and the Darien Land Trust for donating the platforms.

Creating Early Successional Habitat in Trout Brook Valley

Aspetuck Land Trust created patch cuts in the Jump Hill section of Trout Brook Valley near marker #49 to establish early successional habitats for wildlife. Patch cuts are small cleared areas in the forest which allow for new forest growth which many species, like birds and other small mammals, need to thrive.

From left: Land Trust stewardship staff Josh Bedol, John Laiacone from Connecticut Audubon Society, and Aspetuck Land Trust stewardship manager Lou Bacchiochi.





Volunteers Re-Route Blue Trail in Trout Brook Valley

Volunteers from Aspetuck Land Trust and the Fairfield County Chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association re-routed a section of the Blue Trail. Young mountain bike riders assisted with the project under the direction of Monika Stokes (far right in orange) who is a Trail Steward in the Jump Hill section of Trout Brook Valley.



Local Businesses Give Back

We'd like to thank Langan Engineering for donating engineering and design services towards the construction of our new parking lots in Trout Brook Valley and Aquarion Water Company for building the new parking lots. Langan provides land development engineering and environmental consulting services around the world.











COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT 2016 HIGHLIGHTS





Celebrating 50 Years

Over 200 Aspetuck Land Trust members gathered at the Pequot Library on September 16th to celebrate Aspetuck Land Trust's 50th Anniversary! **The evening included the screening of "Barlow's Dream," a video commemorating Aspetuck Land Trust founder Barlow Cutler Wotton** and featuring inspiring stories from Land Trust members and volunteers.



Watch the "Barlow's Dream" video on our website!



Educational Hikes

Our guided educational hikes for adults and children are a great way to get outside and enjoy nature. Learn about bees, hawks, birds, butterflies, geology and natural history, vernal pools, trees, invasive and indigenous plants, salt marshes and much more! Visit **aspetucklandtrust.org** to RSVP.

Aspetuck Land Trust wins Green Award

The Green Award, founded by local lifestyle magazine publisher Town Vibe, recognizes businesses, non-profits, and individuals that are leading the local fight to protect the environment while also creating a sustainable social and economic community.

"Facing continuous pressure from land developers and limited financial resources, this member-supported non-profit has labored hard toward its goal of preserving the open space in Fairfield County."

—TownVibe



From left: Aspetuck Land Trust
Board of Directors members Celia
Campbell-Mohn, Nancy Moon,
Executive Director David Brant,
Administrator Alice Cooney, and Don
Hyman. Photo credit: Kristen Jensen.

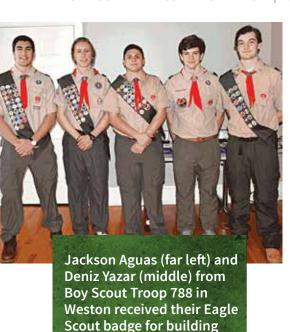




We dedicate the Green Award to our members whose generous support makes the work of Aspetuck Land Trust possible.

Titrud for her vernal pools. • We love Alan Feldman's passion for nature.





new kiosks and a gate to

the blueberry patch.



Local Boy Scout Troops Help Land Trust

Aspetuck Land Trust is proud to support local Boy Scouts looking to fulfill their Eagle Scout requirements. Every year brings new Scouts with fresh ideas and projects which last year included bat boxes, little free libraries, fence gates, and informational kiosks.

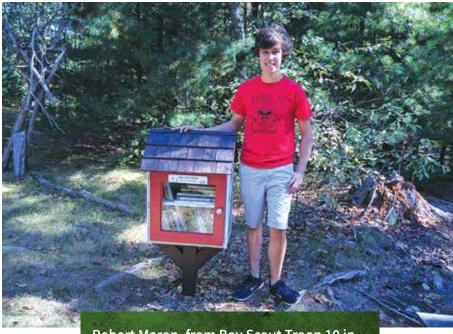
The Blueberry Patch

Every spring, hardy volunteers turn out to help prune our nearly 1,000 blueberry bushes. Our 50th Anniversary Adopt a Blueberry Bush Program to help replenish the blueberry patch was successful as many people adopted bushes.

Contact Alice at administration@aspetucklandtrust.org to adopt a blueberry bush. The cost is \$55 per bush.

New Children's Nature Trail

In 2016, we built a new Family Nature Trail at the 20-acre Leonard Schine Preserve in Westport. The nature trail is designed to engage children's hearts, minds, and imaginations in nature. As children become more entangled with the digital world, it's more important now than ever to get your kids outside. The nature trail incorporates a Natural Playground built in 2010 that was named one of the "50 Best Playgrounds in America" by Early Childhood Education Zone.



Robert Maron, from Boy Scout Troop 10 in Fairfield, built and installed a "Little Free Library" in the Natural Playground at the Leonard Schine Preserve in Westport as part of his Eagle Scout badge.



New Explorer Backpacks at Local Libraries

Aspetuck Land Trust's explorer backpacks are now available to be checked out at public libraries in Westport, Fairfield, Southport, Weston, and Easton. The backpacks contain our Jr. Ranger Guidebook, open space map (yours to keep), binoculars, plant and tree guides, magnifying lenses and bug containers to make exploring fun and exciting for you and your child. Please see "Exploring with Kids" in the Children's Activities section of our website to learn more.



Leave a Legacy

Making a gift to Aspetuck Land Trust through a bequest in a will and/or a revocable living trust allows you to decide how your estate will be distributed and enables you to take advantage of tax-saving opportunities. Please consult your attorney or financial advisor. Contact Aspetuck Land Trust Executive Director David Brant at (203) 331-1906 to learn more.





Scout badge in the 1,009 acre

Trout Brook Valley Preserve

in Easton/Weston. A single

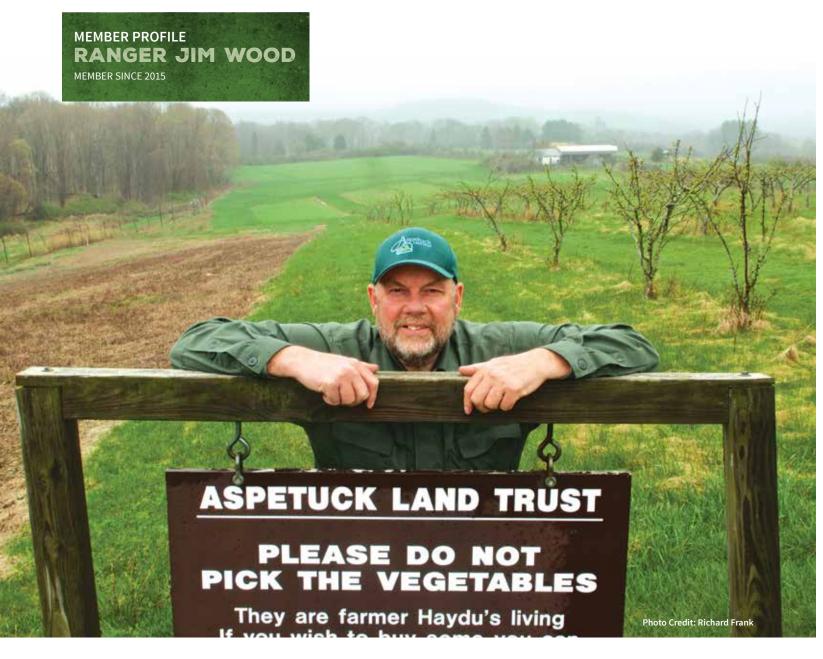
mosquitoes in an hour.

little brown bat can eat 1,200

We love Adam Rosen for hiking with his family in Trout Brook Valley.

We love Fairfield County New England Mountain Bike Association for improving our trails

ASPETUCK LAND TRUST ANNUAL REPORT | 2016



Most people are quick to share a Those wide eyes. That crooked beak. picture of their kids during a chat over coffee, but Jim Wood fusses with his iPhone and calls up a photo of a baby owl.

"Look at this," he says, scrolling to Wood, affectionately known as Ranger

"They're almost eye level in the tree, but people don't see them; they walk them out."

a second photo, and a third, and Jim, is part of the Land Trust team. shaking his head. "Is this not the He walks the acres of Trout Brook best?" It's a fluffy little thing, almost Valley for hours, greeting regular totally white, with that what-are-you-visitors, suggesting age-appropriate looking-at? expression owls have. trails to newcomers, introducing hik-

ers to rare spring flowers and songbirds, gently reminding dog-owners to leash their pets, and chatting with right by them. I stop people and point the neighbors whose yards abut the preserve. He minds the land; he makes sure people, animals, tiny blossoms, trails, and nests are safe.

> A very special thanks to **Sherri Daley** for writing our member profiles.

We love Cohen and Wolf for their pro-bono legal expertise.

2016 Financial Highlights

2016 contributions income from individuals, foundation grants, and other sources was \$323,285. General Operating Expenses were \$325,184. Our General Endowment Fund earned 6.88% in interest, received \$3,354 in donations and ended with a balance of \$1,689,900. These funds may be used for land purchases and extraordinary expenses. Our Land Stewardship Endowment Fund earned 5.96% interest, received two donations totaling \$17,500 and ended with a balance of \$112,495. These funds may be used for major expenditures or emergency situations, such as major capital improvements, major repairs, legal defense, and ensuring public safety on its properties. Our Restricted Portfolio earned 7.80% interest, had disbursements of \$94,759 for the reimbursement of expenses related to the Haskins Preserve and Lecture series for the period of 1/1/2015 to 11/3/2016, and had an ending balance of \$1,335,961.

MBERSHIP CATEGORIES			
New Members		240	\$46,637
Friends: \$0 - 49.99		93	2,521
Individual/Family: \$50.00-99.99		392	20,317
Naturalists: \$100.00-499.99		416	61,080
Trailblazers: \$500.00- 999.99		54	28,199
Stewards: \$1000.00 +		44	85,003
Foundations		5	71,065
Total Members		1,004	\$268,185
/ENUE			
		2016 Actual	2017 Budget
Membership Income		\$268,185	\$273,273
Restricted Grants		20,883	_
Other		34,217	25,500
Total		\$323,285	\$298,773
PENSES			
Property Acquisition		\$12,162	\$10,000
Property Maintenance & upgrades		98,961	85,800
Management Plans		21,840	3,000
Program Implementation		118,390	93,000
Administrative Costs		73,831	84,450
Total		\$325,184	\$276,250
Net Income/(Loss)		\$(1,899)	\$22,523
6 ENDOWMENT FUNDS			
	Main Account	Restricted Account	Land Stewardship Fund
Beginning Balance	\$1,578,048	\$1,327,810	\$89,654
Donations	3,354		17,500
Investment Income	108,498	102,910	5,341
Transfer from Haskins		(94,759)	
Land Acquisition Expenses	¢1 can ann	¢1 225 051	£112.40F
Ending Balance	\$1,689,900	\$1,335,961	\$112,495
.6 RESTRICTED GRANTS			
Beginning Balance		\$20,883	
Total Received		.	
Transfers/Expenditures		(20,883)	
Ending Balance		\$0	

We love Joy Shaw for her love of watersheds.



Friends 0-\$49

Mrs. Janet Aley

Mary Ann & Ronald Atwater Claire Baker

Marcal Beaudry

Thomas Begg Karen & Allan Benway

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Brian O'Rourke

Natalie Ponte

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Jean & Alec Stevens Alex Stewart Mr. & Mrs. Keith Stokes Michael Strange Dr. Gerald Strassberger **Edward Strong**

Mary Steinharter

Don Stuart

Mrs. Karin Sugerman Matthew & Pamela Sulzicki Superior Plating Company Ellie & Joeseph Susmeyer George Synnott Jeffrey & Ariane Tallman Nathalie Taranto

Carolyn Simmelink, DVM

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Neil & Danille Teplica Mike Tetreau

& Dana Taylor, DVM

Thomsen Nadeen & Andrew Tichy Susan & Evan Tilley Amber Tresca John & Sue Tschirhart

Norman Trepner & Susan

We love Ernie Wiegand for his love of rocks. We love David Storrs for his gentle wisdom.

We love Howard Aibel for preserving the land he and his wife loved.



Looking across the Saugatuck River at a stretch of mud covered in tall reeds, Joe McCartin shoves his hands in his pockets and sighs. "If we don't do something, there's a developer who's going to build a six-story housing complex over there." He lets that sink in. "As if the traffic wasn't bad enough," he adds, shaking his head.

Here is the reason McCartin loves the Land Trust: support for the common goal of protecting Connecticut's

beautiful open spaces, watershed, and history. The area targeted for said building is on the edge of Westport's Kings Highway North Local Historic District, a stretch of road with more than 30 houses dating from pre-1750 to 1948, a colonial era drill and burying grounds, and two 19th-century cemeteries. This was the principal crossing place of Native Americans. At low tide, horses could easily splash back and forth.

Living in a historic house (McCartin's

house was built circa 1760) is a responsibility as well as a privilege, and McCartin appreciates both. It takes only a few minutes of conversation with him to easily envision moccasinclad, ruddy-skinned natives wading through the marsh while elegant herons and egrets vie for small fish. It's this vision McCartin knows the Land Trust wants to keep, too.

Teresa Turvey Dana Uhrynowski Mr. & Mrs. Alex Urquhart, Jr. Carol Anne Valentine Peter & Carolyn Davenport Van Hagen Ms. Florence Vannoni John Venezia Michelle Vislosky Heidi Von Hoffman Brian Voytek Donald Wainright Robert & Donna Walker Mr. Michael D. Wallace Dr. & Mrs Dennis Wasson Tom Buttke & Judith Waters Mr. & Mrs. John W. Watkins Audrey & Richard Webb David Wegweiser Gerald M. Weinstein Rita Weinstein Valerie West-Rosenthal Ernest Wiegand Janet H. Williams Gabi Wilson James & Carolyn P. Wilson Robert Winkler Joan Winter Alfred & Margaret Wirtenberg Dori Wollen Tracy Yost Melissa Yurechko Vicky Zaleski Elizabeth Zarrilli Anthony Zemba The Zieff Family Dr. Jon & Lauren Zirn Vincent Zito

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and love of old fields. • We love Hayden Stebbins' passion for native plants.



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IN MEMORY

Amy Whiteley

In Memory of Ruth Bedford and Tom Lawton on this 50th **Anniversary of Aspetuck Land** Trust

Jacquie Littlejohn

In Memory of Mildred Chase, mother of ALT Member and **Land Steward Midge Krisak**

Lisa Brodlie

In Memory of Roy M. Dickinson

Elizabeth Dickinson

In Memory of David Gilkey Ivan Watson

In Memory of Alfred Lawton

Irene Faubion Edward & Harriet Merkling

In Memory of Tom Lawton

In Memory of Alfred Lawton & son Tom

Nancy Lawton

Bill Salmon & Ann Boehm James & Katherine Fogel Debbie Gagliardi

In Memory of Linda Luxemburg

Marc Luxemburg

In Memory of Harry William Smith, Jr., father of Board Member Jacquie Littlejohn

In Memory of Marilyn McEachern

John & Kathleen Anderson Suzanne Carely Barbara Gardecki Leigh and Patricia Manasevit Darlene & Donald Rubenstein

IN HONOR

Lisa Brodlie

In honor of my good friend **Doug Fried**

Lisa Brodlie

In honor of "the place our little family began"

Justin, Melissa and Michael Giorlando

In honor of Nancy Saipe and William Humphrey

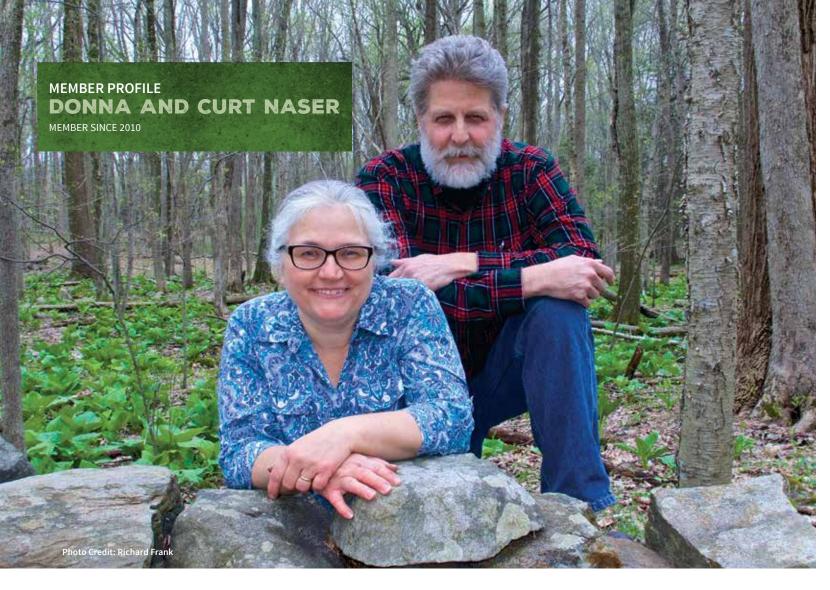
Sally & Nicholas Pecora Saipe Lynn Humphrey

In honor of the Lawton Family: Alf, Elaine, Tom, and the remaining daughter Nancy Lawton

Martha & Weldon MacDonald In Tribute to George Sterling Kelly Frey Pollard

We love Bonnie & Bob Kreitler for their love of bees and meadows.

We love Salfy Harold for removing dams so fish can be free.



Their backyard is 730 acres of wood-land with 14 miles of meandering trails peppered with tiny wildflowers and nests for opossums and ovenbirds. A 15-minute stroll rewards them with a postcard view of rolling hills and sparkling water. But this is only the start of why the Nasers, who live on the Easton edge of Trout Brook Valley, love the Aspetuck Land Trust.

"It's not just that we're surrounded by peace, beauty, and quiet," says Curt Naser, waving a hand at the view out the kitchen window. "That's a lot of it," wife Donna interrupts. "But it's not just what we can enjoy by simply living here. We felt like we ought to be giving back to the people who made this possible. So I started volunteering, helping to weed out invasive plants."

"Garlic mustard," says Curt. "Especially garlic mustard."

Donna laughs. "It gave me a lot of pleasure, being outdoors with likeminded people, helping make the world a little better. Just a little. By weeding out invasive plants that were crowding out native plants. I liked being outside; I liked helping."

Curt had already left the room. "You should taste this!" he called out, firmly shutting the refrigerator door.

"Pesto," Donna explained. "Pesto made from garlic mustard - instead of basil."

Her husband presents a dish of pasta and pesto made with garlic mustard and topped with a fistful of parmesan cheese and served with a glass of chilled white wine.

Amazing. Inspires their guests to volunteer to go weeding alongside Donna soon.

We thank the following 2016 volunteers for their time and expertise.

Land Management Comittee

Lisa Brodlie Lou Bacchiochi

Josh Bedol Letitia Carter

Stephan Grozinger

Tom Johnson

Roger Knoop Scott Kruitbosch

Jacquie Littlejohn

Jennifer Mattei Nancy Moon

Curt Naser

Donna Naser Ross Ogden

Joe Schnierlein Heather Williams Walklet

Membership Committee

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Jeff Galdenzi Justin Grieco

Don Hyman Jack Kadden

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Aili diBonaventura

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Tom Johnson

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Peter Oldershaw Dick Ritzel

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FAIRFIELD PRESERVES

Putnam – Ariane Mermod, Doug Prescott

Lobdell Calf Pasture – Bob Stilson

Ernest Hillman – Bob Stilson

Harwood – Don Hyman, Steve Weiss Sasqua Wildflower – Mike Wallace

Butkus Pond – Rod Wasel Acorn Lane – Lori Hashizume

Old Hay Fields – Elizabeth Gaynor Southport Park – Nancy Moon

EASTON PRESERVES

Pond View/Paine – Mike Wallace Island Pond/Paine – Mike Wallace

Warner Anglers – Ross Ogden

Poindexter - Midge Krisak

Trout Brook Valley/Crow Hill Letitia Carter, Thomas Carter, Cynthia Fox, Donna Naser, Curt Naser, Stephens Naser

Trout Brook Valley/Jump Hill Monika Stokes

Trout Brook Valley – Lisa Brodlie, Pete Diefenbach, Stephan Grozinger, Ian Lewis, Jacquie Littlejohn, Rob McClenathan, Michael Tunstall, David Wright

Abbey Lane Fishing Pond Midge Krisak

Randall's Farm – Bruce LePage Four Corners – Roy Gosse

BRIDGEPORT PRESERVES

Great Salt Marsh IslandDavid Clogg

WESTPORT PRESERVES

Leonard Schine Preserve – Weston Girl Scout Troop 50537

Guard Hill – Barbara LaJoie **Allen Salt Marsh** – Heather Walklet

Taylortown Salt Marsh Heather Walklet

Hilla von Rebay Arboretum Susan Schaefer

Caryl and Edna Haskins Jamie Walsh

Lee's Canal – Grayson Braun Newman Poses – Lissy Newman,

Pete Diefenbach

Hemlock Kettle – Heather Walklet

WESTON PRESERVES

Honey Hill – Karin Giannitti

LeGallienne Bird Sanctuary Ted Lockwood

Stonebridge Waterfowl David Dunlop, Tom Johnson

Singing Oaks – Nora Baskin Lillian Squires Morton Sheila Crowe

Freeborn Walk Trail - Sheila Crowe

Walter Wagner – the Wagenbach Family (Steve, Victoria, Colin, Grant & Russell)

Taylor Woods/Thorpe

Bob Fatherley

Tall Pines – Bob Fatherley

Elisabeth Moore – Wendy MacBeth

Blueberry Pruners

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Cathy Alfandre
Blaise Ancona

Sara Appleyard Adams

Ginny Bently Lisa Burke Ryan Burke David Callen

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Piper Curtin
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Owen Harlacker Bill Humphrey

et Ed Hutchins

Jalna Jaeger Terri Jennings

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n Carleen Kunkel Iman, Emily Lehrman

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we Amy Pastore Harlacker

Penny Pearlman Wendy Pieper Justin Plock KellyPollard

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Barbara Stauder
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Sheila Crowe
Bob Fatherly
Cynthia Fox
Dave Francefort
Jalna Jaeger
Midge Krisak
Wendy Macbeth
Donna Naser
Curt Naser
Rob McClenathan
New England Mountain Bike
Association (Fairfield County
Chapter)

Invasive Remova

Ross Ogden

Ryan Tucker

David Wright

Kyaiera Tucker

Lisa Brodlie
Sheila Crowe
Bob Fatherly
Sara Flokos
Lori Hashizume
Jalna Jaeger
Midge Krisak
Wendy Macbeth
Rob McClenathan
Donna Naser
Susan Schaefer
George Synott
Mike Wallace

We love Christy and Tracy Pennoyer for believing in the woods.

We love Aspetuck Land Trust members for caring about open space and nature.



ASPETUCK LAND TRUST ANNUAL REPORT | 2016 WE ARE LOCAL. WE ARE YOUR NEIGHBORS. WE ARE YOUR LAND TRUST.

George Sterling (far right) at the Stonebridge Waterfowl Preserve in Weston.

In Memoriam

Former Aspetuck Land Trust Board Member George L. Sterling of Westport died April 18 at his home in Westport. He was 89 years old. He is survived by his wife Julia "Judy" Gault Sterling and many beloved family members.

For 10 years, he proudly served as President of the Aspetuck Land Trust and as a Trail Steward. He loved working and caring for the trails and thoroughly enjoyed hiking with his family and his beloved Bernese Mountain Dogs on Aspetuck Land Trust preserves.

Honest and with the highest of integrities, he was a proud US Marine who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Colgate University after he returned from his three years of service. The sound of the Marines' Hymn would bring tears to his eyes. A natural athlete, he excelled as a lifelong golfer, collegiate hockey player, fly fisherman, skier, and any other sport he was game to try.

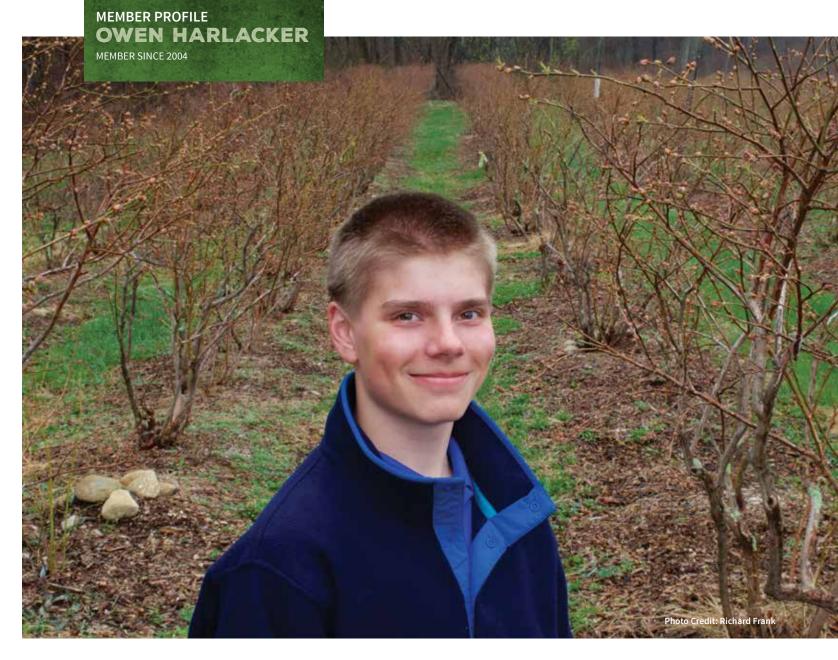
George lived in Westport with his wife Judy where he treasured his home by the Saugatuck River. For 46 years, he enjoyed his ever-changing surroundings, filled with diverse wildlife and scenic views. He will be missed by many. Memorial donations can be made to Aspetuck Land Trust or Christ and Holy Trinity Church in Westport.



Become a Member of Aspetuck Land Trust

Your tax-deductible donation is vital and important and makes an impact on our towns. Please use the enclosed envelope to send your gift of support to Aspetuck Land Trust or visit our website at aspetucklandtrust. org to make a donation by credit card on our secure website.

New members who contribute at the \$100 Naturalist level will receive our new t-shirt designed by Aspetuck Land Trust board member Lissy Newman. Email Alice at administration@aspetucklandtrust. org to participate in this special offer. Thank you!



For Owen Harlacker, it's all about For this 13-year-old, there just isn't the berries. "I get amazing blueberries," he says, and he doesn't mind all County, but his activities with the the hard work it takes to produce a Land Trust help him make the best of bumper crop. "It gives me something it. He likes to mountain bike and hike, to do outdoors," he declares, as if riding he likes to build things, and he says his bike to Trout Brook Valley from he likes that he is helping to prevent his home in Fairfield, hiking for two golf courses and building develophours, and riding all the way home ments from taking over and polluting. isn't enough.

enough time and sunshine in Fairfield

He loves the Land Trust for all it allows him to do for his community – and for himself and his friends and family. "I get to do work and build things!"

We love Margery Silk for her stories about mucking around in







Aspetuck Land Trust P.O. Box 444 Westport, CT 06881

Established 1966

aspetucklandtrust.org

Aspetuck Land Trust Annual Meeting

Join fellow Land Trust members on Saturday, June 24, from 10:30am to noon in the beautiful Trout Brook Valley orchard in Easton for the Land Trust's annual meeting. During the meeting Aspetuck Land Trust members will be asked to approve a slate of directors – Class of 2021 – which consists of: Tom Johnson (Weston), Jacquie Littlejohn (At-Large), Nancy Moon (Fairfield), Dick Ritzel (At-Large), Heather Williams (Westport), Ross Ogden (Easton). Refreshments will be available. Bring your family, and a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. There will be activities for children and maybe some blueberries to pick. A limited number of chairs will be on hand for folks that need them. Bathroom facilities will be provided.

Driving Directions to the Annual Meeting

From intersection of Merritt Parkway and Rte. 58 (Hi Ho Motor Inn), go north on Rte. 58. Pass thru light at Rte. 136, continuing on 58. Pass Bluebird Gas Station and Restaurant on left. After Bluebird take third left (Redding Rd. and Norton Rd. are 1st two roads) onto Freeborn Rd. (sign at end of road) which is a couple of miles from Bluebird. Go left onto Freeborn. There will be woods on the left and right. When the woods stop on left (first house lot) look to right. There will be a dirt road thru the woods. Go up the dirt road and pass thru an 8-ft. farm gate into a field where you will park.

Connect

Become a Fan of Aspetuck Land Trust on Facebook. It's a great way to stay up-to-date on our latest happenings. Sign up on our website to receive our monthly e-newsletter. Follow us on Instagram.



