



### Your Donation Will Make A Difference!

WFC is asking for donations to assist and support our Annual Fund. Your donation is fully tax deductible.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

- Donating to the WFC Annual Fund. *Unrestricted annual gifts and membership fees are used for property maintenance and beautification, as well as professional fees related to land acquisitions, and operating expenses.*

#### **Please make checks payable to: The Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation**

- Check Enclosed
- MasterCard
- Visa

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature x \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it Appears on Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_

*Please mail donations to:*  
Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation  
366 Post Road, Westerly, RI 02891

**Thank you for your support!**



**The Ray Property**

### SAVE THE DATES!!!

**May 23, 2009 at our Noyes Neck Road property:** The WFC Community Organic Garden opens for the season.

**June 27, 2009 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Quonnie Grange, Route One (next to Michael's Shell Station), Charlestown:** The WFC Benefit Tag Sale. Clear out your basement and attic, recycle your things to a new home, and help benefit the WFC. Join us to sell or buy.

**August 7, 2009 at the Shelter Harbor Golf Club:** 20th Anniversary Celebration and Cocktail Party (members only). Join us to celebrate our first twenty years of conservation.

**August 13, 2009, all day at various locations around Westerly:** The WFC joins with The Nature Conservancy, Salt Ponds Coalition, Save the Bay and other local land trusts to celebrate the outdoors and open space. Kayak to Bill's Island, hike local trails, and see what is being preserved in and around your town.

**August 27, 2009 at 4:30 pm at the Weekapaug Chapel:** WFC's Annual Meeting. Join us to hear about what we've been doing, what we are planning, and to elect new trustees.

**For more information about these and other events, please visit our website at [www.weekapaugfoundation.com](http://www.weekapaugfoundation.com) or call (401) 315-5380.**

## WFC Cultivates a Garden...

In response to member requests, the WFC is creating a community organic garden at one of our conservation properties, Noyes Neck Farm, on Noyes Neck Road. We will open the garden this summer with 30 organic plots, available to WFC members for vegetable and flower gardening.

Because we have a limited number of plots, gardeners are asked to submit an application, available on-line at [www.weekapaugfoundation.com](http://www.weekapaugfoundation.com) or at 4 Wawaloam Drive. Plots will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. We will be gardening in a field adjacent to protected wetlands, so gardeners must agree to follow organic principles and refrain from use of chemical and nitrogen-based fertilizers and pesticides.

The garden has been permitted by CRMC, and the soil will be tilled and fenced by May 23. We have opened a "Garden Chat Forum" on our website to allow gardeners and on-lookers to keep up with growing tips, weather forecasts, seedling swaps and more. As the program gains momentum we hope to invite local farmers, food experts and others to share organic gardening information you can use both in our garden and in your own. Come grow with us!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Westerly, RI 02891

366 Post Road

Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation



# Open Spaces

The Newsletter of The Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation

366 Post Road, Westerly, RI 02891 • 401-315-5380 • [www.weekapaugfoundation.com](http://www.weekapaugfoundation.com)

## 1989 to 2009: Twenty Years of Saving Special Places

### *A bit of history:*

In late 1989 a group of community leaders in Weekapaug sought a way to preserve the natural beauty of the area and to protect the rapidly

The WFC owns conservation easements on three family farms in this area: The Ocean Breeze Farm on Noyes Neck Road, the Ever-Green Farm on Dunn's Corner Road, and the Silver Farm on East Avenue. As other family farms give way to more and more housing developments, these three parcels will remain as they are - thanks to their partnership with the Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation.



**Langworthy Field**

After twenty years, the WFC holds property rights in parcels of land all around Winnapaug and Quonnie Ponds. Protecting all that land is our mission and our purpose.

disappearing open space in the Quonochontaug and Winnapaug Pond watersheds.

*The difference between "Fee Simple" and "Conservation Easement" ownership:*

This desire and a great deal of hard work by dedicated volunteers led to the creation of the Weekapaug Foundation for Conservation, a 501(c) 3 tax-exempt land trust.

The WFC holds different kinds of property rights in different properties. We own thirteen parcels in "fee simple." That's just legalese for "owning the land outright." Parcels highlighted in blue on our properties map are fee simple parcels.

Beginning in its earliest days, the WFC sought open parcels of undeveloped land to acquire and preserve as green space. The first piece of land the WFC acquired was the Langworthy Field, at the corners of Shore and Weekapaug Roads.

We own "conservation easements" or "development rights" on twelve parcels. These easements allow the landowner to keep his or her home, farm, or business on the land. They prevent any other development, construction or change in land use from occurring. The easements follow the land-if the land is sold, it can only be sold subject to the WFC's easement. This allows the WFC to permanently restrict or prohibit development on this land-even if it is sold or inherited by the underlying owner. Parcels highlighted in yellow on our map are easement parcels.

Our latest acquisition, idyllic Bill's Island in Quonnie Pond is a five acre bird sanctuary.

Altogether, the WFC is conserving close to 1,000 acres of land in this part of the world.

The WFC has also worked with local land owners and farmers to obtain conservation easements on their land, saving family farms, and homesteads, and preserving the green space they occupy from future and further development.

*How we use the property today:*

In more recent years the WFC has turned to land stewardship, making sure that the properties it

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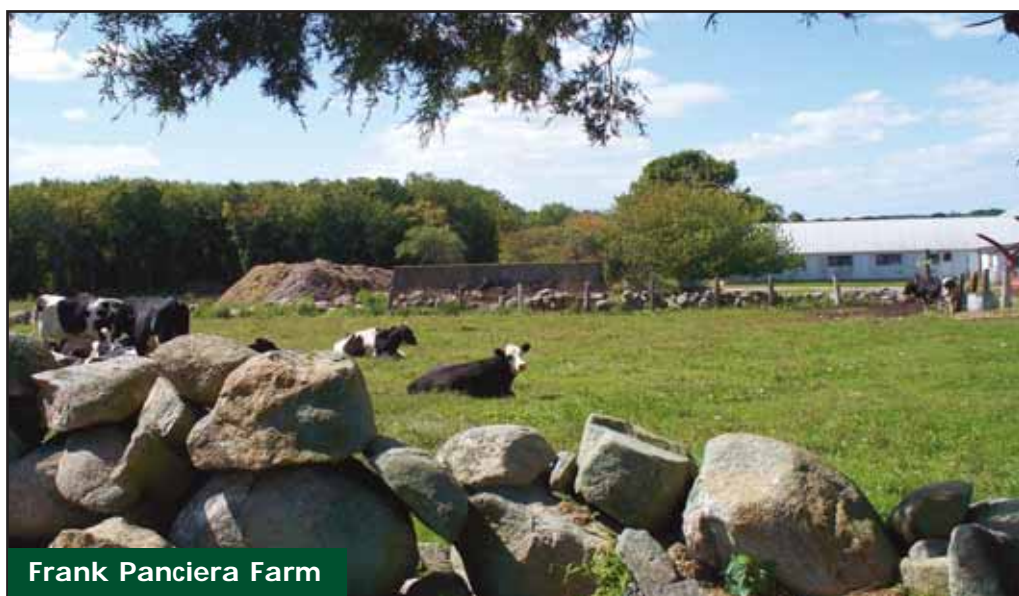
owns are surveyed, maintained, and protected from misuse or damage. The WFC Board of Trustees takes its role as guardians of the natural landscape in this area seriously. This mission has led to scientific studies of the habitat each parcel provides to plants and animals, working with other agencies to develop strategies for protecting land, and developing methods to contribute to the clean water in Quonnie Pond by undertaking a private dredging of the Quonnie Breachway.

As the WFC turns twenty, its Board of Directors is listening closely to its members, and their opinions. Acquiring the Innlet on Wawaloam Drive helped preserve a small, locally run business that serves the community every day in the summertime. Working with other local conservation groups such as Salt Ponds Coalition

and Save the Bay helps us keep our members informed about conservation efforts and about the real status of the environment around the salt ponds. How will climate change impact sea level rise here? What invasive plant species need to be managed? What efforts should we make to create more inviting animal habitats on our woodland and pond-front properties? What other parcels of land can we acquire to expand green spaces in this area?

All of these questions are being discussed, debated and pondered. The Weekapaug Foundation will continue its efforts to make this area clean, green, and open.

***Please join us in the mission!***



Frank Panciera Farm

**LAND HOLDINGS of WFC, Spring, 2009**

**Deeded Property**

- 1A) Langworthy Field at Shore Road & Weekapaug Road (39 acres).
- 2A) Noyes Neck Farm, 2 Noyes Neck Road & Shore Road (41 acres).
- 3A) The Lathrop property, Atlantic Avenue, Misquamicut (10 acres).
- 4A) The Trotman property, Haversham Road (4 acres).
- 5A) The "Fen", scenic wellands along Wawaloam Drive, Weekapaug (4.5 acres).
- 6A) Morris Road, Weekapaug (.3 acres).
- 7A) The Dunn Parcel on the barrier beach, Weekapaug (1.5 acres).
- 8A) The Patton property on the barrier beach, Charlestown (2.5 acres).
- 9A) Shore Road parcel - 2+ acres which abuts the Frank Panciera Dairy Farm. (337-339 Shore Road).
- 10A) The Ray Property on Atlantic Avenue, Misquamicut (14 acres).
- 11A) The Innlet, 2 Wawaloam Drive, Weekapaug (.34 acres).
- 12A) Bill's Island, Quonochontaug Pond, Charlestown (5.5 acres).

**Development Rights or Conservation Easements:**

- 1B) Frank Panciera Dairy Farm - Noyes Neck Road (65 acres).
- 2B) Charles Panciera Dairy Farm - Dunn's Corners / Bradford Road (110 acres).
- 3B) Silver Farm - (78.4 acres), runs from East Avenue access to Airport Rd.
- 4B) Ninigret (Dunn) Farm - Junction of Route 1 & Route 1A (80 acres).
- 5B) The Weekapaug Golf Club - Shore Road (60 acres). Meikle parcel - abutting 1/2 acre. Rachlin parcel - abutting 1.25 acres.
- 6B) Shelter Harbor Golf Club - Rt.1 Westerly / Charlestown (404 acres).
- 7B) The Royce/Griscom property - Knight Parcel of land - end of Morris Road, abuts Weekapaug boundary (10 acres).
- 8B) Highfill property - 1/2 acre abutting Noyes Neck Farm on Shore Road (.5 acres).
- 9B) The Perry/Evans parcel, Haversham Rd., Haversham - (8 acres).
- 10B) Shelter Harbor Conservation Society, Inc. Land, Shelter Harbor - (40,038 sq. feet).
- 11B) The Gray Property at 237 Shore Rd., Westerly - (42 acres).
- 12B) 16 Knowles Avenue ("Lot 9"), Weekapaug - (.5 acres).
- 13B) Weekapaug Inn Bathhouse property, Weekapaug Inn - (34,150 sq. ft.)

**From the Executive Director**

As the weather warms up, and the skunk cabbage returns to the Fen, I am amazed at how busy the winter was. Any thought that this might be the "quiet season" is banished from my thoughts for good!



At year's end, while we wrapped up the acquisition of Bill's Island in Quonnie Pond, I was inundated with cards and donations from members wanting to support WFC by contributing to the 2008 Annual Fund and to the purchase of the island. This year's fund (which ran from July 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008) raised almost \$280,000 to support the WFC's work and projects in and around the

salt ponds. In a time of economic uncertainty and turmoil, it is heartening to know how much this community values the work of the WFC, and how generously you are willing to support it.

After the holidays, planning began for this season's events. The newly re-formed Calendar Committee sifted through photos for the 2010 edition, and the Board of Trustees started preparations for its gala Twentieth Anniversary Celebration of the WFC on August 7th at our largest conservation easement-the Shelter Harbor Golf Club. The Tag Sale Committee planned a great opportunity to get rid of your old treasures and welcome in some new ones at the WFC Benefit Tag Sale on June 27th. We began preparations for surveying and signage for our conservation properties, to better manage their conservation. The newly formed Community Organic Garden committee met and e mailed all winter, organizing a garden for members, which will be opening this spring. Grant proposals were completed and revised, and all of a sudden it was time to create another newsletter!

So welcome back to the Salt Ponds region for another season. Please join us at one of our events, or in the new garden. Pick up a 2010 calendar as you arrive, and mark this year's calendar for one of our many special events. As you dust off the shelves and put the boat back in the water, take a look around, and admire the birds as they head out to nest on Bill's Island. Consider the clean water in the ponds, and the green spaces around you. You are returning to a special place. Please help us keep it that way.

**Jennifer Sternick**

