

MEMBER PROFILE

Stewart Greenfield

Member Since 1997

Background: Stewart has supported many globally important places over the last 30+ years, such as the Noel Kempff Mercado National Park in Bolivia and the Adelbert Mountains in Papua, New Guinea. He has also been involved with the CT-Brazil Partnership Pledge and the Forest Carbon Partnership at the World Bank.

Why did you become a member of Aspetuck Land Trust? I like to hike and discovered that Aspetuck Land Trust had preserved some of my favorite places in Fairfield County.

Why is land conservation important? Land values in Fairfield County are so high that without the efforts of the Aspetuck Land Trust, our area would have been fully developed and urbanized, reducing our quality of life and negatively impacting the environment.

What do you like about what the Land Trust is doing today? The younger generation must know of the virtues and joys of life in the woods. The Land Trust's Hikes for Kids series and the Natural Playground are important for the long term preservation and appreciation of the environment.

JOIN US

We invite you to join our now 1,000+ members in supporting the Land Trust. If you are not a member, we have enclosed a remittance envelope for your convenience. Make an investment in where you live and play by becoming a member of the Aspetuck Land Trust.

You can now make credit card donations on our website. It's fast and secure, and you will still receive your acknowledgement letter in the mail, along with a cool ALT bumper sticker!

Contact us at 203-331-1906, or www.aspetucklandtrust.org

Aspetuck Land Trust
P.O. Box 444
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Established 1966

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Member Since 1997

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◇◇◇◇ A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ◇◇◇◇

2010 was a great year for the Aspetuck Land Trust! Because of you, more people joined the Land Trust than in any previous year in our history. We were able to increase the number of trail stewards patrolling our preserves, improve our trails, and get more adults and children outdoors!

I became interested in the land working on a small farm in Montana. One evening, I was invited by the farmer to stay and “pick” dinner. As I pulled carrots streaked with earth from the ground and gathered lettuce and chard in the setting sun I felt a desire to work with the land. And I did. I started my own farm in Vermont and then moved to Minneapolis where I founded a non-profit organization to teach inner-city children about gardening and all the good things that come from growing food and working together.

Land Trust members help to inspire and connect thousands of people to the land every year.

I hope we have inspired you and your family. Maybe you attended one of our guided hikes, or visited our new Natural Playground with your child. Or maybe you simply experienced the solitude of the outdoors at one of our 42 nature preserves.

Thank you to our now 1,000+ local members for your support! If you aren't yet a member, or your membership has lapsed, I have included a donation envelope for your convenience.

We are local. We are your neighbors. We are your land trust.

Thanks for your support!



David Brant



Teaching urban youth about farming in Minneapolis.

◇◇◇◇ 2010 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS ◇◇◇◇

2010 contributions income increased by 25% to \$223,696. Expenses decreased by 14% to \$319,236. Expenses include amounts reimbursed from restricted endowment funds in the amount of \$53,769, which left us with an operating deficit of \$41,771. This operating deficit is comprised solely of \$44,258 in legal expenses which is the result of a lawsuit we are involved in to prevent a developer from building a road through our Honey Hill preserve in Weston.

General endowment fund decreased by \$35,982 or 3%. These funds are used for land purchases and to offset expenses not covered by membership contributions.

◆◆◆◆ PROTECTING THE LAND ◆◆◆◆

Newman Poses Nature Preserve Open to the Public May 1st

The Aspetuck Land Trust preserved 39 acres of land in Westport which will be known as the Newman Poses Nature Preserve. The preserve represents the town of Westport's tribute to Paul Newman, a longtime Westport resident and supporter of local civic causes, including the Aspetuck Land Trust.

Mr. Newman lived near the property and donated a large portion of the land to the town. The parcel also includes land sold to the town by Lillian Poses, a neighbor and friend of Mr. Newman's who worked on the New Deal in Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration and who was one of the first women to graduate from NYU Law School.

The Land Trust worked closely with the town of Westport and the Newman family to ensure that this land will remain open space for the public and not be developed, and will manage the nature preserve for the town.

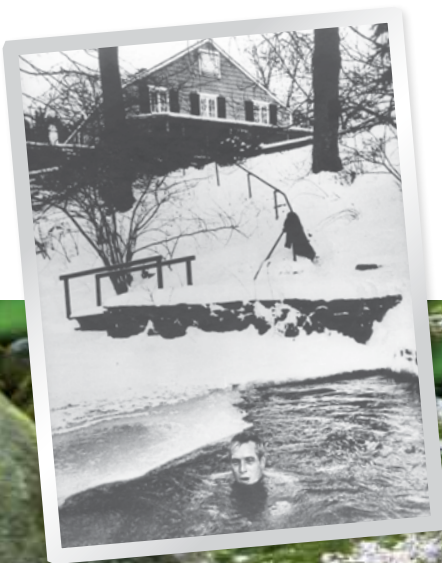
The preserve will be open to the public in May and can be accessed off Bayberry Lane (north of Easton Road/Rte 136). See our website for more details.

I frequently walked these fields with my father, and the ubiquitous pack of dogs, and we fretted together about what would eventually happen here. He stopped short of buying it outright, and turning it into a preserve, a decision I think he sometimes regretted. He did, eventually facilitate the first steps in its preservation, which brought us to this point. It seemed to me, that, on his passing, I wanted to hold on to something that was dear to us both. And so with the help of many kind and devoted people both at Town Hall and at the Aspetuck Land Trust which has agreed to monitor and maintain it, here we are.

So now it belongs to everyone, as I always felt it should. Its wonderful microcosmic diversity lives on to muddy up another several generations. My desire to push for its preservation came not from any desire to own it, or keep it to myself, but straight up from the mud and moss and grass. I want to thank it all for raising me, and teaching me and protecting me. I want to return the favor.

The important thing to remember is that we are all responsible for making sure that happens. We are all responsible for falling in love with it, for enjoying it, and sharing it, so that if a time ever comes when we need to protect it again we will be there, with children, and grandchildren in tow. It is pretty near perfect as it is in my opinion, and I hope you all think so too.

Lissy Newman, 2011



Paul Newman swimming in the Aspetuck River which borders the preserve. Lillian Poses and her husband Jack.

LAND MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Trail Improvements – Trout Brook Valley

In 2010, our member volunteers improved and rerouted trails and re-marked a significant portion of the 1,009 acre Trout Brook Valley preserve to make our trails easier to follow for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians.



Streamside Restoration Project at Warner Anglers Preserve in Easton, A Success!

The Land Trust worked with CT DOT/DEP and Trout Unlimited to remove a concrete embankment and dam in the Mill river in Easton and restore the stream bank to its native state. The trout are happy (and so are the fishermen!).

BEFORE



Invasive Plant Removal

Did you know that you are seven times more likely to encounter ticks which carry Lyme disease if you have Japanese Barberry on your property? The Land Trust applied for a Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program Grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service to remove Japanese Barberry and other invasive plants from our nature preserves.

To join the invasive removal team, contact lbrodlic@aol.com.



Land Trust executive director, David Brant (left) and Jeff Ward from the CT Agricultural Experiment Station using flame weeders on invasive Japanese Barberry.



AFTER

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Annual Meeting to feature author and explorer, Richard Wiese

ANNUAL MEETING

Join fellow Land Trust members on June 2, from 7 – 9pm at the Pequot Library in Southport for the Land Trust’s annual meeting. The featured speaker is Weston resident, Richard Wiese who will discuss his book, “Born To Explore,” a guidebook for adults and children about how to survive while exploring the great outdoors. Wiese has tagged jaguars in the Yucatan jungles, captured crocodiles, and achieved the first ascent of an unclimbed mountain in Alaska. A short business meeting will precede the speaker, and new board members will be elected by majority vote of the members present. Board of director nominees are: Ken Bernhard, Princie Falkenhagen, Jack Light, Don Hyman, and Cynthia Williams. Hors d’oeuvres and refreshments available.



Explorer and author, Richard Wiese.

Natural Playground for Children Popular with Local Families

The Natural Playground at the Leonard Schine Arboretum in Westport was a big success among children and parents! The playground was designed to encourage children, ages 3 – 7, to explore and play creatively outdoors. See our website for more details.



Child playing on tower at Natural Playground.

STAY CONNECTED

Stay connected. Become a fan of our Aspetuck Land Trust Facebook page, follow us on Twitter @AspetuckLT and join our monthly e-news list.



ASPETUCK LAND TRUST – 2011 HIKES

The Aspetuck Land Trust offers numerous educational and specialty hikes for children and adults that are open to everyone and offer a great way to explore and learn more about the diversity of our 42 trailed nature preserves on over 1,700 acres of open space in our community. Reserve your space early as spaces are limited for these popular hikes. More details on our website.



Wildflower hike at Stonebridge Waterfowl preserve.

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