



10 Reasons to Cherish & Support Wethersfield

Wethersfield offers much for the community to enjoy during all the four seasons

- 1. Open land conservation, with 1,000 acres of rolling fields, vistas beyond compare of the Taconic Hills, Catskills and Berkshire Mountain Ranges
- 2. Reforested land with 20+ miles of remarkable trails for equestrians and hikers alike, 55 acres of ponds, all of which sustain wildlife habitat for animals, reptiles, birds and waterfowl.
- 3. Pioneering conservation and land sustainability practices that remain as relevant today as ever.
- 4. Iconic, formal Italian Renaissance Garden, replete with bosco, considered among the finest formal gardens in the United States. The woodland gardens feature statuary of Greek and Roman Mythology.
- 5. Classical architecture and landscape design, providing unparalleled beauty.
- Carriage House Museum with 22 antique, horse-drawn carriages, sleds, with historic tack room, including pieces from President Theodore Roosevelt. The Carriage House is acoustically well-suited for concerts.
- 7. Incomparable outdoor recreation including walking, hiking, cross-country skiing, equestrian sport and family activities for children.
- 8. Cultural Arts Programming & Artistic Residencies at Wethersfield: Denyce Graves Foundation Shared Voices Residency, Ballet Collective Residency, YCA Donor Recital, DGF Recital, Ballet Collective Programs for Adults & Children, Metropolis Ensemble Piano Recital with composer/pianist Timo Andres

"If we ...

dedicate ourselves

to the long-term

stewardship of this

marvelous countryside,

we will not only do a service

to ourselves and each other,

but to future generations."

– Chauncey D. Stillman (1907-1989)

- 9. Wethersfield Young Adventurers Club: A six-week summer program with a certified educator to engage children with nature.
- 10. Partnerships with other local area non-profits who share our values -DLC, Waterman Bird Club, Millbrook Garden Club, local schools, Stanfordville Community Garden, Public Libraries, Sharon Historical Society & Museum.

2024 Historic Preservation & Planning: Your Donations at Work

Historic Buildings Survey Report Planning

The Wethersfield Board is planning to undertake a major initiative to evaluate historic buildings, including Wethersfield House and the Carriage House Museum. This report, to be conducted by trained Preservationists/Architects, will identify the current state of the buildings, preservation and restoration work to be considered, and an estimate to undertake the work and properly maintain the property. Equipped with this report, we can begin long-term planning to address deferred maintenance over time: This will help prioritize projects and determine funds required for this through grants and donor support.

Archival Management Planning with Grant from NYS Preservation & Heritage Services

Wethersfield won a Grant from NYS to complete a Foundational Needs Assessment study for the Wethersfield Archives. This allows us to begin planning improved storage location, and collections procedures, and a discussion on how to make the archives more accessible to a broader audience.

Rebuilding Inner Garden Wall Infrastructure

The Inner Garden is a walled garden, with the western side compromised by tree roots growing beneath its foundation. In keeping with historic preservation, a contractor was identified to commence with the work to restore the structure and to ensure public safety of the space.

Barn Restoration

Work has been completed on the large, rear area barn on Pugsley Hill Road, including replacing rotted wood panels and painting. Happily, the structure is solid. America has been losing her barns for generations. Wethersfield wants to ensure we maintained ours for the agrarian site lines along Pugsley Hill Road.

Major, large stone re-leveling in Inner Garden, with more to come throughout the garden.

Removal of 25 trees near Camp Pond Dam

to comply with DEC regulation. Ongoing removal of unsafe and dead trees along trail system in forest that have been affected by Emerald Ash Borer, Ambrosia Beetle, Beech Leaf and Beech Bark disease.



















Horticultural Fellowship Program

The Horticultural Fellowship Program at Wethersfield: Jeff Lynch, appointed by Gregory Long to the Advisory Committee of the New York Botanical Garden's Horticultural Education Program, leads Wethersfield's efforts to recruit interns for this program for six to eight months each year. This gives the fellows hands-on training in planning and managing an historic garden of national and international importance. This offers not only the finest training for students, it helps propel their careers. Wethersfield is seeking to endow two Horticultural Intern positions, with a program naming opportunity for the donor, at a cost of \$50K+ annually. Funds for the 2025 program were raised at the Garden Luncheon this year. Fourteen generous donors joined in the live auction to support this vital program.

- · Anonymous
- · Daniele Bodini and Clair Glover
- · Philip and Julia Brown
- · Shannon and Sam Casperson
- · Hugo Cassirer and Sarah Buttrick
- · Farnham and Anne Collins
- · Cece Cord
- · Alex and Patricia Farman-Farmaian

- · Nancy Hathaway
- · John and Karen Klopp
- · Ken and Lois Lippmann
- · Jacqueline Montfort
- · Stephen and Elizabeth Shafer
- · The Stillman Family, 4th Generation
- · Linda Stillman
- · Barbara Tober

In addition, Wethersfield received a generous grant from The Millbrook Garden Club, which will support our Horticultural Internship program.

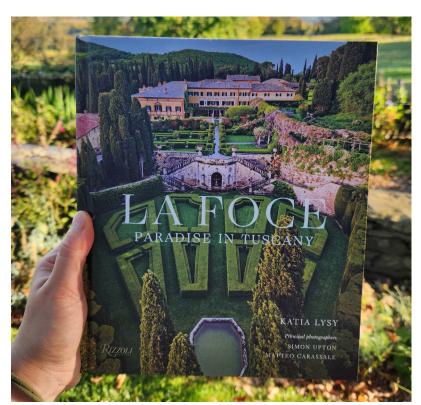


2024 Horticultural Programming

This year we were pleased to welcome many different groups, large and small, to the garden:

- · The Garden Conservancy's Digging Deeper & Open Days at Wethersfield
 - -June 2
 - *− July 27*
 - September 21

- · Garden Club Season Tours
- Amenia Garden Club
- Danbury Garden Club
- Garden Club of Somers
- Garden Lovers of Middletown
- Poughkeepsie Garden Club
- Rensselaer County Master Gardeners
- Rhinebeck Garden Club
- The Garden Club of America, Tyler Texas
- Verplanck Garden Club







In October Wethersfield hosted a book presentation and signing of La Foce: Paradise in Tuscany by Katia Lysy. La Foce's all encompassing vision mirrors that of Wethersfield, but on a grander scale.

This program was generously supported by Barbara & Charles Pierce.

2024 Horticultural Preservation Projects: Your Donations at Work

Under the stewardship of Head Gardener, Jeff Lynch, and his dedicated team, including Lead Horticulturist Alaina Mancini, Brian Couse, and New York Botanical Garden fellows, David Wheir and Izzy Mousseau, much as been achieved in short order.

Soil Health

The Horticultural Staff initiated a soil health program using a combination of liquid seaweed concentrate (Kelp), fish hydrolysate, humates, polyphosphates, chitins, plus a few others, all sustainable and regenerative for use in gardens. Use of forever chemicals is strictly forbidden.

Beech Trees

Health & Blight-related issues. Wethersfield continues to do its best to maintain the health of the beech trees in the garden as we combat beech leaf disease. We are following the best research done by UCONN, including trees getting multiple treatments for soil health care. Attention is being given to drainage issues around roots as well. We have found evidence that the Beech Leaf Disease exists in the Wethersfield forests, which we expected, given that it's already in the Millbrook area. There are no signs of it in the garden thus far.

Historic Plantings

Wethersfield replaced the Hosta borders in the East Garden with Clethra alnifolia "Tom's Compact" to better achieve historical plantings, per the Cultural Landscape Report.

Carpinus Tunnel Trees

We continue to prune and train the young trees that replaced the former beech tree tunnel in the Inner Garden. This year, under-plantings included woodland phlox and Tiarella cordifolia, which are prettier and attract pollinators in the Spring.

Knot Garden

We replaced the Hibiscus hedge in the Knot Garden, within the Inner Garden, with Clethra to restore the health and look of this garden feature.

Plant Propagation at Wethersfield

Wethersfield's dedicated Horticultural staff propagated hundreds of plants for the Cutting Garden and other areas. We continue to develop perennial beds by editing and adding plants. They also monitor for pest control on an ongoing basis.

Statutory Care

The Staff began cleaning statuary of biotic growth from algae, moss and lichens to protect them for the long-term.

Aging Infrastructure

The Staff is working diligently to solve irrigation and plumbing issues both in the garden and in the reflecting pool, due to aging infrastructure.



"The Artistic Residency
at Wethersfield has far surpassed

Voth our expectations

and those of the students.

Their progress has been

Truly remarkable."

– Denyce Graves Founder and Artistic Director, The Denyce Graves Foundation

Cultural Arts Residencies

Residencies to educate and train future classical artists across music, dance and art

Denyce Graves Foundation (DGF) Shared Voices Residency

Wethersfield celebrated the inaugural Shared Voices artistic residency, an initiative led by the Denyce Graves Foundation. From July 7-14, talented young artists from top music conservatories and HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) immersed themselves in intensive training with luminaries from The Metropolitan Opera, including one-on-one sessions, master classes, rehearsals and more. Maestro Pierre Valet of the Metropolitan Opera planned and led the coaches and students through the residency training program.

Scan here to view student testimonials, and to watch the Denyce Graves Foundation Shared Voices performance at Wethersfield.









BalletCollective Residency

BalletCollective's dancers returned to Wethersfield again this summer for their annual Millbrook Program. The dancers resided at Wethersfield House for two weeks, while they prepared for their performance locally.



Cultural Arts Programming

Young Concert Artists (YCA) Donor Recital in May:

In May, Wethersfield hosted its Annual Donor Appreciation Recital and Reception at Wethersfield House. Guests enjoyed an intimate concert featuring award-winning artists from YCA. With Bennett Tsai on cello and Albert Cano Smit on piano, it was a remarkable evening showcasing exceptional talent.

The artists also met with local students at DDS.





DGF Shared Voices Recital in July:



The Residency culminated in a memorable recital on Saturday, July 13, where these rising stars showcased their exceptional talents for the community. The performance was met with a long, rousing standing ovation. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all participants and wish them continued success as they embark on their artistic journeys.

This Residency and Recital were generously underwritten by John and Elizabeth Budnik.



BalletCollective Adult & Children Programming in July:

In July, the dancers and leadership team from BalletCollective moved into Wethersfield House for their annual residency. During breaks from rehearsing for local performances, they hosted two events for the Wethersfield community: movement classes in the Inner Garden, for adults and children.





Metropolis Ensemble Piano Recital with composer/pianist Timo Andres in September:

This was an afternoon filled with music from well-known and new American composers. This recital & wine reception was underwritten by an Anonymous Donor and by the Soo & Carolina Kim Foundation.



Equestrian Sport at Wethersfield



- · Wethersfield continued the tradition of hosting the Opening Meet of the Millbrook Hunt once again this year. This was followed by the MH's Breakfast at Wethersfield's Carriage House.
- The annual Wethersfield Spring Conditioning Ride took place on May 11, with over 100 riders of all ages.
- The Wethersfield Fall Hunter Pace took place on October 6, with more than 230 riders competing between Hilltop, Hunt and Pleasure divisions. The course, over 8.5 miles, included more than 80 jumps.
- Equestrian Memberships are offered on an annual basis. This allows riders to have unlimited use of the trails from mid-April to mid-November. (Reminder, each rider is required to have an Equestrian membership or day pass to ride throughout Wethersfield.)
- · In Memoriam: Parker Gentry, 1959 2024, Joint Master of the Millbrook Hunt This year the Wethersfield community lost one of our beloved members, Parker Gentry, Joint Master of the Millbrook Hunt. We thank Parker for her love of Wethersfield, her bright spirit and her generous support over many years.









Photo credit: Connecticut Photo

Family Programming at Wethersfield

Scavenger Hunt

This year Wethersfield opened for the season with a Family Scavenger Hunt in the garden. Visitors of all ages were given a custom-designed Wethersfield coloring book, which included a list of items to find within the Formal and Wilderness Gardens. They were rewarded with colorful ribbons to build their hand kites. The evening was capped with pizza and refreshments.

This event was generously supported by Meghan & Adam Klopp and Carolina & Soo Kim.











Family Programming at Wethersfield

Adventurers Club – Seven weeks throughout July & August



The Adventurers Club, an interactive program for children and families, ran Friday mornings in July and August. Led by certified educator, Allison Toepp, visitors dove into the wonders of our historic estate—from aquatic ecosystems to edible plants—there is so much to explore.







Fall Family Festival at Wethersfield

The 2024 season was capped off with a Fall Family Festival in the Wethersfield orchard. Visitors of all ages were invited to pick apples, peaches, plums and pears, participate in autumn-themed crafts, and enjoy a Carriage Ride with Elk Ravine Farm. Special thanks to Big Rock Farm Market for generously donating coffee and cider donuts.













Photo credit: Sarah Blodgett





"Let them say of me, I am one who believes in sharing the blessings I received. Let me know in my heart when my days are through, America (and Wethersfield), I gave my best to you."

- American Anthem by Gene Scheer



Honoring the Stillman Family



Wethersfield honored three generations of lineal Stillman family members who have or presently serve Wethersfield with their generous support of time and funding. A special, surprise presentation included world-renowned Mezzo Soprano Denyce Graves singing "American Anthem" to honor the family's legacy of giving back. Farnham Collins, who has known each member of the family since our Founder, Mr. Chauncey Stillman, first came to Millbrook, presided over the honoring ceremony. Accepting the honors were Mr. Stillman's daughter, Elizabeth Shafer, whose speech brought her father to life for a rapt audience; her daughter, Tara Shafer, a former Wethersfield Foundation Trustee, President of FOW, and Executive Director; and Mr. Stillman's grandson, John Budnik, who currently serves as a Trustee, Vice Chair, and member of Wethersfield Foundation's Executive Committee. John's mother, Dr. Theo Budnik, faithfully served as a Trustee and Board Chair during her lifetime, as did his brother Peter in the early forming days of the Wethersfield Foundation.

It should be noted that last year's honoree, Barbara Tober, graciously underwrote the Friends of Wethersfield's surprise tribute to the Stillman Family, featuring Denyce Graves' moving rendition of "American Anthem".

Garden Luncheon sponsors included: Bank of Millbrook, Bear Creek Farm, Cara Cara, Creel & Gow, Barbara Tober, George T. Whalen Real Estate.



From left: Farnham Collins, with Honorees Elizabeth Shafer, Tara Shafer, Performer Denyce Graves, and honoree John Budnik

2024 Wethersfield Garden Luncheon



Board Chair, Nancy Hathaway



Auctioneer, Tim Mayhew



Mish Tworkowski & Joseph Singer



Luncheon Co-Chairs: Deanna Mulligan, Julia Brown & Simone Mailman



Bernadette Murray & Donna Rosen



Kate Kingsley, Ashley Laracey, Karin Kingsley, Tim Mayhew, Elizabeth Mayhew, Claire Mann, Chris Mann, Madeline Mayhew, Troy Schumacher, Annie Sundberg, & Paul Kingsley



Table cloths provided by Cara Cara



Scan here to view the NYSD coverage of the Wethersfield Garden Luncheon Scroll down for feature..

Photo credit: Sean Zanni of Patrick McMullan



Elizabeth Budnik & Denyce Graves



Meghan & Adam Klopp



Jennifer Oken, Katherine Gage Boulud & Cristina Civetta



Whit Stillman & Elizabeth Shafer



Christopher Spitzmiller & Ashley Whittaker



Cece Cord & Ronald Linclau



Bernadette Murray, Zibby Tozer & Gloria Fieldcamp



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Tara Shafer & Barbara Tober



Denyce Graves & Barbara Tober



Fernanda Jess, Kirk Henckels & Fernanda Kellogg



George T. Whalen IV, Susan Whalen & George Whalen III



Deban Flexner, Karen Klopp & David Theiringer



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Pam Taylor Yates & Cathy Rasenberger



Annabelle Garrett, Denyce Graves & June Wu



Erik Richard Oken, Jennifer Oken, Marion de Vogel & Willem de Vogel



Whit Stillman & Stanley Stillman



Francesca Bodini, Guillaume Lacroix, Griffin Schroder, Halsey Schroeder & Adam Klopp



Jack Budnik, Stanley Stillman, John Budnik Diana Garza & Elizabeth Budnik

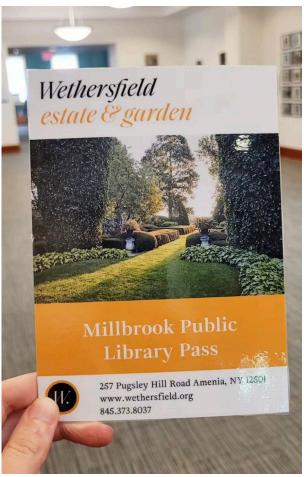


Community Partnerships

- · Area Libraries
- · Cornell Cooperative Extension
- · Dutchess Land Conservancy
- · The Garden Conservancy
- · Local Schools: Dutchess Day School, Millbrook School, Stanford Community Preschool
- \cdot North East Community Center
- · Sharon Historical Society & Museum Exhibition on Evelyn Poehler, Pioneering 20th. C. Landscape Architect who designed Wethersfield's formal gardens
- · Stanford Community Garden
- · Town of Amenia Earth Day Celebration
- · Waterman Bird Club







With Profound Thanks to Our Generous Donors

Listings includes gifts received between November 2023 and October 2024.

Stewards of Wethersfield \$10,000 - \$50,000

Anonymous Anonymous Kathleen Vuillet Augustine Philip and Julia Brown The Budnik Family John and Elizabeth Budnik Farnham and Anne Collins Archibald and Judy Cox David and Jacqueline Dase Nancy Hathaway Soo Kim and Carolina Gunnarsson Kim Andrew Lipsky and Holly Kelly Christopher and Claire Mann Mary-Rea McDonald Jacqueline Montfort Kelly A. Morgan Stephen and Deanna Mulligan Candace Platt Alexander Stillman Oakleigh and Jacqueline Thorne Barbara Tober Mish Tworkowski and Joseph Singer

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* In memorium

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Classicism · Conservation & Horticulture · Cultural Arts · Community

