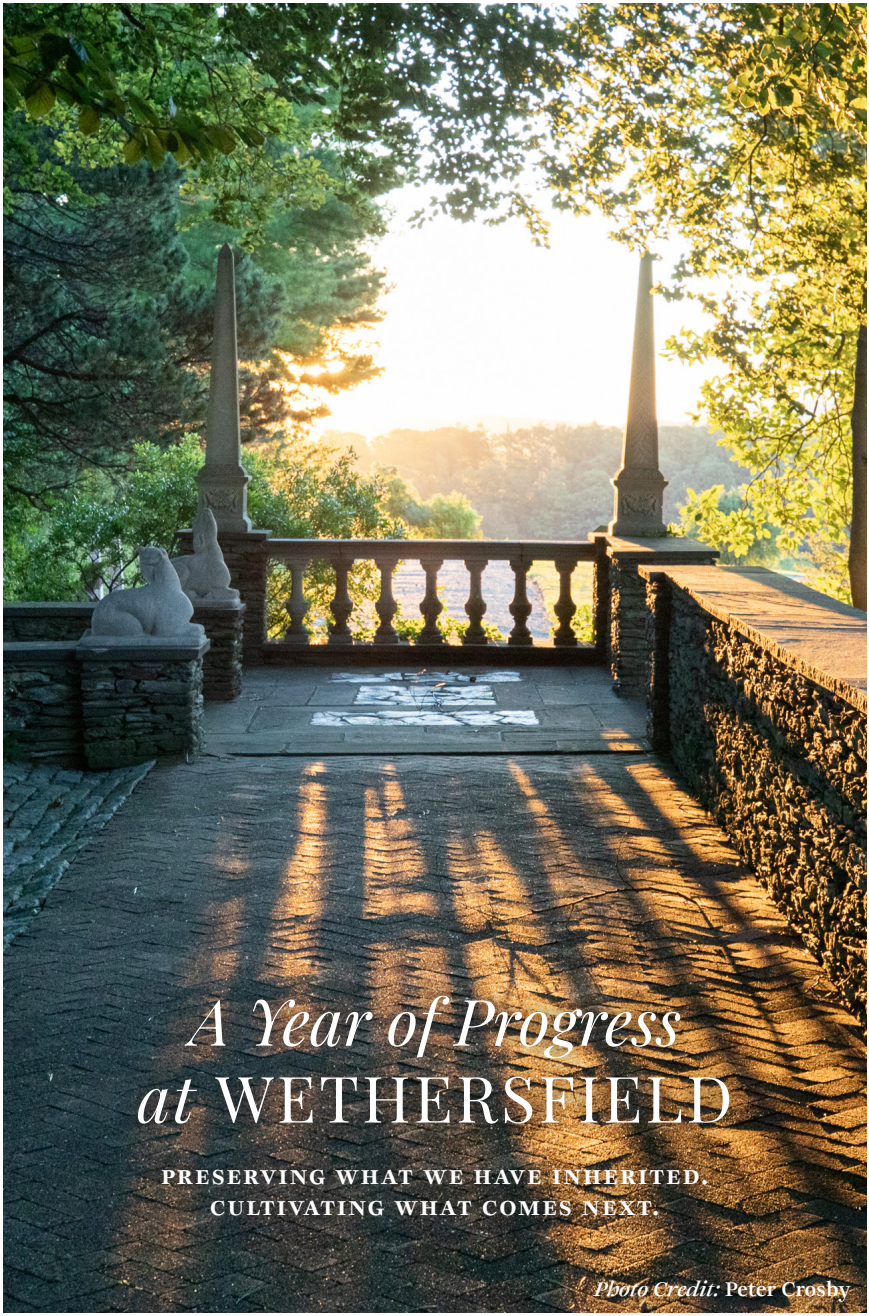


Wethersfield
estate & garden

2026

Support from
our generous community helped
make this momentum possible.
The Friends of Wethersfield's fundraising
and program planning–including
a Garden Luncheon that brought so many
supporters together–continue to strengthen
the estate and its future.

A leader in land conservation,
Chauncey Stillman envisioned Wethersfield
as a place where natural beauty,
responsible stewardship, and habitat for plants
and wildlife could flourish together.
We carry that vision forward by preserving
the land and caring for the rich diversity
of life it sustains.

These accomplishments belong to
everyone who believes Wethersfield
is worth preserving and sharing.
With your year-end gift, we can carry
this momentum into the coming year.



Historic PRESERVATION

PRESERVING THE PAST, SECURING ITS FUTURE

Historic preservation advanced across the estate this year. Long-closed trails were cleared and reopened for hikers and equestrians. Another farm barn was repaired and painted—bringing the total to three, with the final barn planned for 2027. In the garden, stone leveling and repairs continued, a custom wrought-iron fence was installed above the south terrace retaining wall, which was restored last year, and the East Garden was graded and reseeded following extensive excavation in fall 2025.

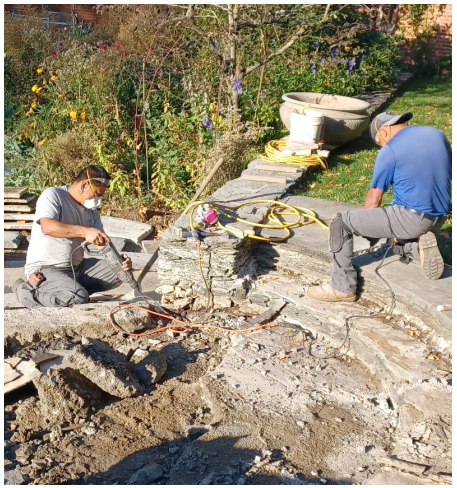
At Wethersfield House, repairs to the clay tile roof and the water-damaged main stairwell addressed longstanding maintenance needs. This fall also marked the start of a major project: replacing the flat roof over the center of the Carriage House.

With grant support from the Preservation League of New York State, Stephen Tilly Architects completed a Building Condition Report for Wethersfield House. This assessment will guide restoration priorities and help us plan the next phase of preservation.











Treasured COLLECTIONS

Through the generosity of the Budnik family and an effort led by Vice Chair John Budnik, four original portraits returned to Wethersfield House this year, reconnecting the dining room with its history.

The portraits include Miss Bessie Ray Stillman, Chauncey Stillman's great-aunt, by Abbott Henderson Thayer; Mrs. Charles Stillman, his great-grandmother, by William Merritt Chase; and two works by Charles Hopkinson: Chauncey Stillman, painted in 1929, and Elizabeth Goodrich Stillman, his sister, painted in 1930. We are deeply grateful to the Budnik family for helping restore this important part of Wethersfield's artistic and family legacy.

A HOMECOMING AT WETHERSFIELD



Chauncey Stillman,
painted in 1929 by Charles Hopkinson

Garden STEWARDSHIP

A LIVING GARDEN, GROWING STRONGER

This has been a year of meaningful progress, thoughtful stewardship, and continued investment in the future of the garden, led by new Head Gardener Katharine Barrie. The East Garden lawn was restored following extensive work to update a failed drainage system last fall. A wrought iron fence was installed along the South Terrace Wall to improve guest safety while honoring the historic character of the estate. The Garden Team continued to develop the plant healthcare program and refine the garden's maintenance practices, while the Wethersfield Fellows undertook research projects focused on expanding plant records, developing native plantings, and cultivating *Fuchsia*—a favorite plant of Mr. Stillman's. Gardener Mathilda Bofinger has brought fresh energy to the garden, training Fellows in the cutting garden and creating a new "What's in Bloom," newsletter to share the garden's seasonal beauty and stories with our audience. The Garden Team also pursued professional development in invasive plant identification and management, strengthening their knowledge and skills as stewards of this remarkable landscape. Together, these efforts help ensure that the garden remains not only beautiful today, but thoughtfully cared for and continually evolving for future generations.



Photo Credit: Peter Crosby

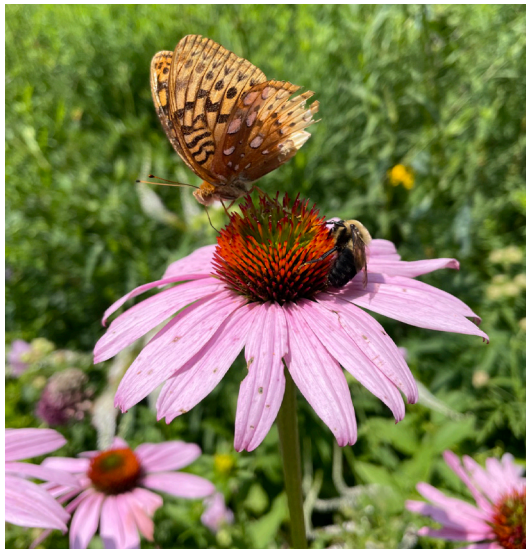




Photo Credit: Peter Crosby

Emerging Leaders FELLOWSHIP

GROWING THE NEXT GENERATION

Wethersfield's Horticulture Fellowship Program gives emerging professionals hands-on experience in historic garden care, classical garden design, greenhouse operations, and landscape management. This year, three talented fellows worked alongside our horticulture team, building skills for careers in public gardens and conservation. Made possible by our generous supporters, the program invests in the next generation of horticultural leaders.

Past fellows have continued their careers at prestigious gardens including: Mt. Cuba Center, Wave Hill, The Battery Conservancy, and Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, or continued their education at the NYBG School of Professional Horticulture.







Community AND THE ARTS

Performance opened the season with a concert in Wethersfield House featuring vocal arts students from the Bard College Conservatory of Music, led by Stephanie Blythe. Graduating students will return in November for a recital that fulfills the program's requirement to perform at an off-campus venue.

The Denyce Graves Foundation's Shared Voices residency returned for its third summer, bringing emerging singers to Wethersfield for a week of intensive coaching with professionals from the Metropolitan Opera. The residency culminated in a remarkable concert for the community in the Carriage House. We extend special thanks to Barbara Tober and Joanna Johnston, Farm Manager at Yellow Frame Farm, for hosting the coaches throughout the week.

Over three years, 24 students have participated in the residency, with 12 now working with professional companies, including The Metropolitan Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Opera Carolina, North Carolina Opera, Annapolis Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Virginia Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, and Charlottesville Opera.

Conversations brought new perspectives to the estate as well. In August, Richard Armstrong led a sold-out discussion with modern art collectors Peter and Jill Kraus. James Brayton Hall welcomed author Sarah Anne McNear for a conversation about her book, *Edward Steichen and the Garden.*

The Wethersfield Adventurers Club drew record participation this year. Returning educator Diane Ritters guided families through the estate, pairing exploration with creative, hands-on activities that encouraged curiosity and a connection to nature.

MORE WAYS TO EXPERIENCE WETHERSFIELD









Garden LUNCHEON

A COMMUNITY BEHIND THE MOMENTUM

The Friends of Wethersfield's Sixth Annual Garden Luncheon welcomed a sold-out gathering of nearly 400 guests on September 5, raising vital funds to preserve the estate and share it with the public. ***Richard Armstrong and Board Chair Nancy Hathaway*** honored ***Zibby Farran Tozer*** with the ***Spirit of Wethersfield Award*** for her enduring dedication to the estate and Chauncey Stillman's vision. A native white oak was planted in her honor.

Co-Chairs Perrin Berkey, Holly Lipsky, and Natasha Blodgett helped shape a beautiful celebration, featuring bespoke linens generously donated by ***Quadrille Fabrics*** and a lively auction led by ***Michael Poulin.*** We extend heartfelt thanks to the Friends of Wethersfield Committee, whose fundraising and program planning help sustain the estate, and to every donor, volunteer, and staff member who made the day a success.



Co-Chairs from left:
Perrin Berkey, Holly Lipsky, and Natasha Blodgett

Scan here to view the full gallery of images












Profound Thanks to Our

GENEROUS DONORS

Listing includes gifts received between October 2025 and September 2026.

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$25,000+

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Nancy Hathaway
Andrew Lipsky & Holly Kelly
Barbara Tober
James & Zibby Tozer

Stewards of Wethersfield
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Farran & Robert Brown
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Mission Statement

The Mission of the Wethersfield Foundation is to preserve and maintain the house, gardens, art, carriage museum and grounds of the Wethersfield Estate. In keeping with the vision of the founder, Chauncey Stillman, the foundation seeks to promote responsible land stewardship, habitat protection, innovative horticulture, sustainable farming, and to share the beauty of the property and classical arts with the community.

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