

Westport Island Conservation Commission Annual Island Clean Up 2021

While we had hoped to be able to resume our previous tradition of having in-person sign up at the Town Hall for the annual Island Cleanup, it now appears that for this year it will be prudent to continue the on-line sign up that we successfully implemented in spring 2020. With this system, persons volunteer or are assigned road sections where they can collect trash at their convenience. When you sign up for a road section, we will provide a location on the Island to drop off the collected trash and an email address to report the locations of large items (construction debris, tires car parts. etc.), which we would be able to collect with a pickup.

Please note that with the current rules at the transfer station, only #2 plastic can be recycled as well as glass and metal. All other plastic must be included with the regular trash. Returnables can also be dropped off at the shed behind the fire station.

While you are welcome to pick up roadside trash anytime, we have generally found it most efficient to wait until the snowbanks are gone but before vegetation and insects become active.

A list of Island road sections that we typically cover follows:

1. HARRIMAN POINT TO SOUTH END EAST SHORE ROAD
2. SOUTH END EAST SHORE ROAD TO NORTH END EAST SHORE ROAD
3. NORTH END EAST SHORE ROAD TO TOWN HALL
4. TOWN HALL TO SORTWELL ROAD
5. SORTWELL ROAD TO OAK RUN ROAD
6. OAK RUN ROAD TO OSPREY ROAD
7. OSPREY ROAD TO EDWIN DRIVE
8. EDWIN DRIVE TO GREENLEAF ROAD
9. GREENLEAF ROAD TO FERRY ROAD
10. FERRY ROAD TO BRIDGE ROAD
11. LORD ROAD NORTH END ROAD LOOP TO CLOUGH POINT PRESERVE
12. NORTH END WEST SHORE ROAD TO GINGERBREAD HOUSE
13. GINGERBREAD HOUSE TO POST OFFICE ROAD
14. POST OFFICE ROAD TO RED GATE LANE
15. RED GATE LANE TO MAIN ROAD (short section)
16. LENGTH OF POST OFFICE ROAD
17. NORTH PORTION EAST SHORE ROAD
18. SOUTH PORTION EAST SHORE ROAD
19. LENGTH OF DOGGETT ROAD



To volunteer for or be assigned a road section, please contact Dick Tucker by email at richard.tucker@rjasoc.com or by phone at 207 882-7965 or mobile phone at 617 538-2403.

We are hopeful that we will be able to complete the clean-up prior to prior to May 8, 2021.

WHEN DRIVING, PLEASE BE AWARE OF PERSONS PICKING UP TRASH!

Westport Island Town Office

Just a reminder that spring is here and now is a good time to register your boat and trailer BEFORE you float! Memorial Day weekend will be here before you know it. You can register via mail or night drop. Email municipalagent@westportisland.us for instructions.

Also, we have been seeing quite a few expired plates out there and wanted to let folks know that after 3 months their vehicles can be towed. This would mean not only a ticket but a tow charge to get your vehicle back.



THE WESTPORT ISLAND COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021

Westport Community Association
6 Fowles Point Road,
Westport Island, ME 04578

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

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Original Photo by Mark Sperry



Hats off to Art Weber for the effort he made grooming the ice on his pond, for all to use!

John Sperry

No Time Now by Pat Smith

I heard birds sing and saw buds sprout—
With life all around me I wanted to shout,
“People, look at this! And don’t omit
Creation and thanking God for it!”
But he said he had no time now.

The leaves are falling so beautifully
The seasons are changing so naturally
I asked him, “Isn’t this life great?”
But he replied that he was late.
You see, he had no time now.

A bubbling brook was awaiting me—
Playing ball or climbing a tree
Is fun to do, so on a whim
I decided to ask him
But he said he had no time now.

I heard that he had left this earth.
I wondered what his life was worth.
Did he ever take delight
In what was beautiful, good, and right?
Indeed, he has no time now.

Westport Island History Committee

The Sagacious Cat of Mr. Rines

Winter was a hard time for the settlers on Westport Island in the 18th century. Finding food to feed the family was a real challenge, especially when fathers and sons were sent off to battle with natives in the “French and Indian War”. Below is a story from “The Dominions of Maine” by Rufus King Sewell, 1859: “The Sagacious Cat of Mr. Rines” (story c. 1755).

On the island of Jeremy Squam, a Mr. Rines had made his plantation. The husband and father had been drafted and sent to the wars, and was thus forced to leave his little ones to the mercies of a lone wintry abode in the savage wilds of Westport. It was a season of great scarcity and distress in this war-wasted region, as we have seen. Soon the deep snows of winter shut out all resources from the store of roots and herbs in the forest, and the hoar frosts had fast locked up the hitherto open clam banks, and wrapped in ice-bound depths “the treasures there hid in the sand for the poor.” Gaunt famine now pressed at the door of the absent warrior’s home until his wife and little ones began to feel the pinching’s of hunger.

At this juncture, a favorite cat, bounding over the frozen waters of Montsweag Bay, watched the crevices and the openings in the icy floor of the bay, and thence plucked and dragged the little frost fish playing up in search of air from their watery home, and day-by-day, brought them in for food until the ice was broken up!



Photo by Barry Wom

Then the mother, seeking food by the shore-side one Sabbath morning, descried a dark body making for the land, which proved to be a large fat bear. Her neighbors were called; and when the bruin had reached the land, and emerging from the waters, began to shake his shaggy and dripping form, with well-directed blows, the hungry mother fell him to the earth. Thus, was eked out a scanty subsistence, till the warmth of the returning sun again opened the resources of nature for the support of life.

- Honorable Stephen Parsons' Narrative

Hemlock Wooly Adelgid by Mike Hughes

Hemlock wooly adelgid (HWA) is presently on Westport Island. Possibly the #1 pest in the state of Maine, it is infesting and killing our fine hemlocks. Inspect your trees (or any small branches which fall from them after a wind) for small cottony masses on the twigs. HWA feeds by inserting a probe into the twig and sucking the moisture from it. It is moved from tree-to-tree on a bird's feet; the feeding can quickly weaken and kill even the largest hemlock. If you are unsure if your tree is infested, you may go to Maine.gov Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for a list of licensed Arborists or licensed Commercial Applicators for an inspection. Early detection and intervention are very important with HWA.



Westport Island Community Association



Happy Spring Westport Islanders!

The WCA hopes that everyone has remained healthy over the winter months and that we will all continue to get vaccinated when it is our time. The WCA Directors have continued to meet by Zoom monthly to discuss future ideas for getting islanders involved and outside. We also have had several applications for Student Awards that have been approved and checks issued. The Old Community Church (owned by the WCA) continues to be a focus for us with some major work needed soon. The church subcommittee has been established and has met with representation from the History Committee, Planning Board, and WCA Directors.

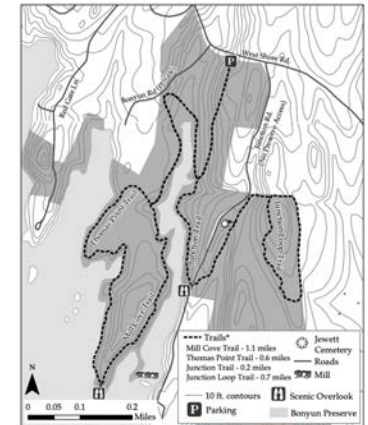
Our first WCA Event of 2021 will be the outdoor Plant Sale on Saturday, June 12th from 9:00 - 12:00. The location has not yet been decided. Please help WCA by potting perennials from your garden or growing a few extra seedlings.

In July we are looking into having a Westport Island Yard Sale (if we have island interest!) Please email Debbie Lorensen at dclorensen@aol.com if you would like to participate. Early commitment will be necessary to know who is participating so that maps can be made and given out. (Plus, it will give folks time to clean out sheds, houses, garages, barns, etc.) No charge for this event. You mark, price, and sell your stuff. WCA will do the advertising.

New Trails on the Bonyun Preserve by Dennis Dunbar

With Spring finally arrived, it’s time to hit the trails! Two new trails have been recently added to KELT’s Bonyun Preserve. Check them out on the new trail map. See the “Junction Trail” and the “Junction Loop Trail”.

From the parking area, take the Mill Cove Trail until just before you get to the cove. Listen for the cascading water in the stream and look for the “Junction Trail” sign. Go down the steps, across the bridge over the stream and follow the trail towards Junction Road. You may see the ice cave on the ledge to your left. Just before you reach Junction Road, follow the spur trail to the mill dam viewing site and the “rock garden”. The display of mill history was installed by the History Committee for Maine’s Bicentennial.



Continue thru the wall opening by the cemetery and just as you approach Junction Road, bear right up the notch in the ledge and follow the trail up the hill and thru “Devil’s Footprint”. This is the original route of Junction Road in the mid-1800s. As you approach the bottom of the hill, turn right and follow the “Old County Road” section of the trail. After about 0.2 miles, turn right to continue on the Junction Loop Trail up to the heights of the land. The trail reconnects at the top of the “Devil’s Footprint” with a scramble down the ledge. Continue back the way you came. For a shortcut, you can return via Junction Road, to West Shore Road, and to the parking lot. A round trips hike on these new trails total just under 2 miles and is an easy to moderate hike. The new land added to the Bonyun Preserve nearly doubles the preserve size to about 100 acres. More trails are expected to be added in the years ahead. Watch for them!