

Westport Island Conservation Commission Annual Island Clean Up 2021

The annual Westport Island clean-up, sponsored by the Conservation Commission, is planned for May 1 - 8. You can learn how to sign-up for a road segment, and see instructions, at the town website (www.westportisland.us, see Upcoming Events). Join your neighbors in our annual "spring cleaning" of our roadsides.

Westport Island Preserves

Are dogs allowed on our island preserves? Dogs on leashes are allowed on the Preserve at Squam Creek and the Clough Point Town Preserve. Dogs are currently not allowed at Bonyun Preserve to protect/preserve wildlife.

Westport Island Volunteer Fire Department

Notes from Chief Hutchison

"It looks like spring has sprung and it's good to see many people out enjoying the weather. Remember to 'Be Safe - Be Seen' when walking along the roads. Wear bright clothes for high visibility, especially in the mornings and evenings. Drivers give walkers plenty of space. Get out there and enjoy the sunshine."

"I am issuing burn permits, but spring burning can be tricky. Conditions can go from good to bad quickly. All the dead leaves and twigs can dry out quickly, even after a good soaking. Add in some brisk wind and you have a recipe for a mess. Check the online permit system for day-to-day status updates at www.wvfd.me/fp."

WVFD is accepting your can and bottle donations behind the fire station. Please, no trash!

Let's Get Out and Hit the Trails!

Trips For Kids Midcoast Maine is looking for 8-18-year-olds interested in trail riding/mountain biking. Cary Huggins, Westport Island, the local director has 15+ years of experience in mentoring kids in cycling and is certified by the League of American Bicyclists. She has bicycles for use, can assess the condition of yours and can help locate bikes for those needing one. This is a fun and COVID safe way to see the island and other local trails in midcoast Maine. Get healthy, and make new friends. This is a free activity and open to all! Calls or texts work best at 207-332-9977 or www.tripsforkids.org for more information.



THE WESTPORT ISLAND COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021

Westport Community Association
6 Fowles Point Road,
Westport Island, ME 04578
LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

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The Women I Know by Val Lovelace, 2020-2021

The Women I know are easy in their skin;
They show signs of wear, of course,
Having been beaten with the force of living;
Grayed wisps of hair fall over wrinkled faces
While clear but tired eyes hold visions of the future,
And sometimes tear with visiting memories;
Bones may bend where they did not bend before
After ages of working or weeds in the garden
Or children propped on hips with the groceries,
And the day's mail, and the car keys,
And the half-consumed, now-cold cup of coffee,
And the worn, stuffed toy missing an eye
Magically capable of soothing a wailing child.

The Women I know raise their voices
To each day, no matter the weather, or trend,
Or popularity, or political correctness
Of things assumed to have grave importance.
Wisdom wraps their words in fire and ice
And clarity and a kind of knowing one only
Acquires through decades of being Woman.
Thinking and feeling and speaking in earthy tones,
They are Sisters of Blood and Sisters of Choice;
Kindred through experiences which threatened
To make them not enough or too loud or ugly;
But they would not have it, though years
Might have passed before Freedom finally found them.

The Women I know examine the world
Through lenses colored by compassion,
Raw honesty, and the kindest of mercies.
They are builders and creators and warriors
Raising families and empires for the future.
In the grist and grind of difficult living
They may falter or fall, yet always rise again,
And again, and again, and yet again,
Until generations have left their mark.
They forge their way with beats of justice
Because they already know what is possible,
The way a River knows to etch its way
Through the land, changing its course.

The Women I know are works-in-progress
Hale and hearty, finding their own way forward
They are every size, and shape and color, and
Any other category into which they may be stuffed;
They know the world is not an ordered place
Nor is it good or forgiving or resilient enough
to find us all deserving of a simple kindness.
They are exhausted and sick and dying,
or Grieving, and yearning, and unashamed of tears.
They make mistakes by assuming the worst
Or sometimes the best in too many situations,
Then yield their regrets over to stale pizza, or
Wine in a box, or ice cream right from the carton.

The Women I know are grateful and robust,
Capable of any and every thing conceivable or not.
They bring their wits and bravery to a slow simmer
Folding in good amounts of mind- and heart-love,
With a heavenly dash of sweet or savory to create
A recipe for hope, love, or some splendid triumph;
And in the rubble of any failed experiment
Will recalculate and try again until it is beautifully
Plated and served to feed that which hungers
In a starving world of baked-in pathos and unfairness,
To nourish and make thrive that which languishes
And might otherwise die in the great famine of Our human
stubbornness and frailty.

The Women I know are vulnerable and tenacious
And smart and talented and hysterically funny
And angry and bored and highly energetic
And exquisitely, desperately sick and tired
As they discover what they will and will not tolerate
Trampling into the holiness of their sanity
Or the sanctity of their divine bodies;
They will curse you in a hasty moment
And then heal you within the very next
Furiously heaving cyclones of ragged breath
To keep from putting hands at your neck,
Until their own Wildness finally whispers:
"You are more Sacred than this."

The Women I Know, Continued

The Women I know laugh when it's funny
Until tears stream their cheeks and
They can barely breathe, and
They cough or snort or pee just a little
And then pee a lot because it's all
So fucking hysterical, except when it's not;
And when it's not, they ache in the places
So deep light can't possibly reach them
And they wail when it's heartbreaking
Until tears stream their cheeks and
They can barely breathe, and
They believe they will simply die of sorrow
In a place where humor cannot find them.

The Women I know are rightly fierce
Strong of will and wild dreamers
Who harness howling wind on dark nights;
Who stoke themselves with raving courage;
Impatient with nonsense, unafraid of Truth,
Quick witted, kind-hearted, tender when that matters;
They are a brimming glass, a broad palette;
Spare of word and generous of laughter
Dancing to ancient music in their bones;
Do not fancy it easy to cross them -
When patience grows weary, they rise renewed
And under full sail turn into the storm;
Because they suffer neither fools nor folly.

The Women I Know wear colorful coats
For being seen and for swearing oaths
And pledges of allegiance to truth and justice
Where only men have stood to swear
Where only men have dared to pledge
Allegiance to—what we have forgotten?
To whatever that thing is that seeks us,
Desires us, wants our hearts and minds
Together, for the greater good of us
The greater good—of the Women I know, and
The greater good of the Men I know, and
The greater good of the Planet I know
Who knows me back—so I know who I am.

Newsletter Submissions

If you have an interest in contributing to the Westport Island Newsletter, please contact Rose at lulusbarnshop@gmail.com or 215-7039. The deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month. I would love to hear from you!

Town Office

Absentee Ballot Applications are available for the June 8, 2021, Municipal & RSU #12 Budget Referendum Election. Actual Absentee Voting commences on May 8th. If you want to vote at the polls, you may do so at Old Town Hall, 1217 Main Road from 12 pm until 6 pm on Tuesday, June 8, 2021.

Register your boat before you float! Memorial weekend will be here before you know it. ATVs can be registered in early May and will not expire until June 2022.

It's been a nutty day... let's take a little siesta!!



Photo by Donna Curry

Westport Island Community Association



Upcoming Westport Community Events!

Join us for the **Plant Sale on Saturday, June 12th** from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at Wrights Landing on the Ferry Road. Please help WCA by potting perennials from your garden or growing a few extra seedlings. You may drop off your donated plants at Debbie Lorenson's house at 781 Main Road. Please email Debbie Lorenson at dclorenson@aol.com to make arrangements or for more information. If you need a pot, Debbie has many to spare.

The **Westport Island Yard Sale** will be on **July 17th from 8 am - 1 pm**. The deadline to sign up is May 15th. Please email Debbie Lorenson at dclorenson@aol.com if you would like to participate. There is no charge for this event. You mark, price, and sell your stuff. WCA will do the advertising.

A message from the Westport Island Horticulture Committee

There is no **Poop Fairy** ...



Scoop your Poop
Grab it • Bag it • Toss it

There is no poop fairy...scoop your poop.
Please pick up the poop from your beloved best friends around the gardens at the Wright Landing house on Ferry Road.

SAVE THE DATE • SAVE THE DATE • SAVE THE DATE

JOIN US for the WESTPORT ISLAND HISTORY
Family Scavenger Hunt!
Sunday / May 23, 2021 / 1- 4 pm
Seegerstrom Preserve at Squam Creek

- Find Natural and Historic Items
- Enjoy the Outdoors
- Learn about Squam Creek History
- Take a Guided Tour
- Win Prizes!

More info to come on the
Westport Island History Facebook
page, or email FOWIH19@gmail.com

THE Friends OF
WESTPORT ISLAND HISTORY