

HIGH WATER MARKS: GREG WATERS

Invasive plants have a foe, environmental education has a friend, and NRWA has a true partner in Greg Waters, Horticulturist & Natural Resource Manager at the Weir Farm National Historic Site. Waters – who works for the National Park Service at Connecticut’s only national historic site and the Nation’s only site dedicated to an American Painter – is responsible for the monitoring, preservation, and maintenance of the natural resources at Weir Farm on Nod Hill Road on the Wilton/Ridgefield border. Weir Farm preserves the lands, home, and studios of Impressionist painter J. Alden Weir and his son-in-law sculptor Mahonri Young. The comprehensive natural resources that Greg Waters oversees entail forest health, water quality, biological species diversity, and care and preservation of the cultural landscape.

Waters states, “The National Park Service is in the business of protecting and preserving for future generations the natural and cultural resources that have been entrusted to us. We take seriously our role in protecting the native flora from the onslaught of invasive exotic plants; and the quality of Weir Farm’s water resources, such as Weir Pond, are of the utmost importance not only for future generations but also because we are part of the Norwalk River Watershed. We have a role in protecting all those important resources.”

Generous in sharing his knowledge, time, and practical expertise, for 12 years Waters, in addition to his work on the landscape, has led guided walks on plant identification, land-use, stone walls, habitat restoration, and natural history for the National Park Service, Town of Ridgefield, Weir Farm Art Center, nature centers, garden clubs, and NRWA. A member of the University of Connecticut’s Invasive Plant Working Group and the Advisory Board of NRWA, Waters has partnered with NRWA and other agencies and organizations on workdays in the constant battle against invasive plants on lands adjacent to Weir Farm itself, where he has actually gotten invasives under control, and on other lands within the watershed and region. He also has partnered with NRWA and others on grants for shared equipment for invasive removal, and he helps facilitate and maintain trails that are part of the Norwalk River Valley Trail System on lands within and adjacent to the park.

Greg Waters is a patient and determined ally, advisor, and advocate for responsible watershed management and the effective partnerships that can cooperatively accomplish a great deal in spite of limited funding and manpower. Please tip your Weed Wrench to salute this valuable regional asset!



Stone-wall restorer, horticulturist, master pruner, restoration expert, hike leader, and educator, Greg Waters of the Weir Farm National Historic Site works on maintaining the natural and cultural landscape and educating visitors about the site and its resources.

The grounds at Weir Farm are open to visitors during daylight hours all year long. For tour or program information, call 203-834-1876 or visit www.wefa.org.

For information about the Weir Farm Art Center, call 203-761-9945 or visit www.weirfarmartcenter.org.

NRWA
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